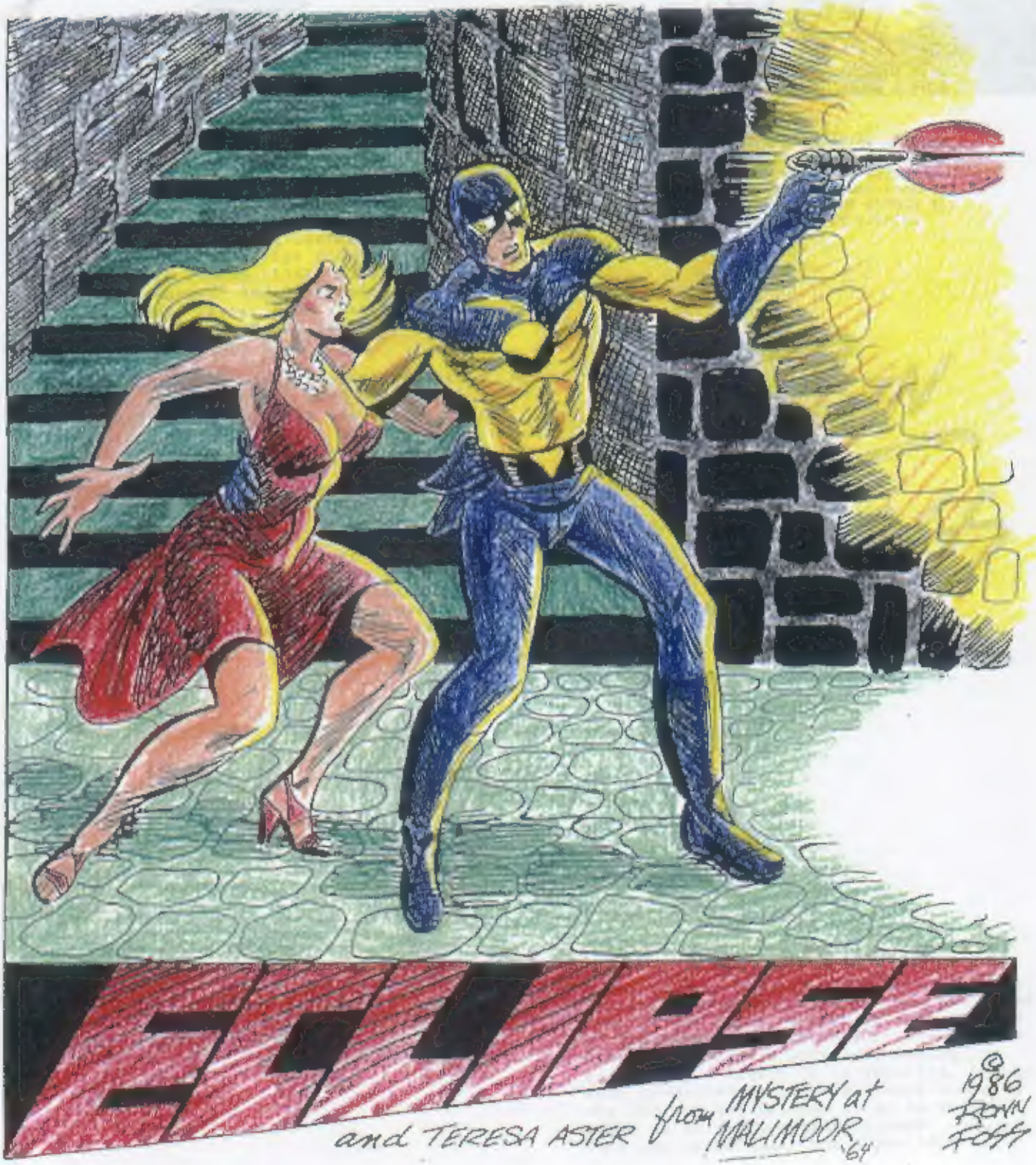
Ronn Foss Retrospective 2



29 Years Ago:
Two of Fandom's Favorite Artists got together at the White House of Comics in Columbia, Missouri: Biljo White (l) and Ronn Foss (r) examine a rare copy of BATMAN #1, which was worth up to $100.00 in 1963!

Welcome!

This fanzine was originally conceived as a small supplement to the first RONN FOSS RETROSPECTIVE, for those who expressed a strong desire to own a collection of Ronn's best comic strips from the Golden Age of Comic Fandom (1961 - 1971). With the encouragement and assistance from Jeff Gelb, Richard Pryor, Mike Vosburg, Grass Green and Joe Kubert, it became a bit more ambitious along the way.

The special cover was prompted and partly paid for by my brother, Dave Schelly ... a confirmed "Foss Fan." It was prepared in collaboration between Ronn and myself, though the color scheme was his design. This recreation of a scene from "The Mystery of Malimoor!" is published here for the first time.

Before I comment briefly on the contents, I would be remiss if I didn't point out the tremendous work of the writers represented herein. Sincere thanks to Drury Moroz, Mike Vosburg and Steve Perrin, and also Coreen Casey who assisted on both "The Fox Returns!" and "Witch Hunt."

RONN FOSS

In This Issue...

THE COWL: Return of the Nebula!

The Cowl first appeared in a ditto'd origin strip in Mike Vosburg's MASQUERADER #1 (September 1962). This follow-up from MASQ #6 (June 1964) was only Ronn's second inked strip for Comicdom.

THE ECLIPSE: The Mystery of Malimoor!

The second appearance of the Eclipse shows Foss in top form: a near-perfect balance of boldness and restraint, mixing diverse drawing techniques with astonishing virtuosity. Page 6 is my favorite, though Ronn commented later: "I always wondered why Dru had the Eclipse refer to Teresa Aster as an 'empty-headed blonde' when in fact she seems quite the opposite!"

RONN FOSS RETROSPECTIVE #2 (April 1992) is edited and published by William C. Schelly, 3032 N.E. 130th St., Seattle, Wa. 98125. All artworks herein, unless otherwise noted, are © copyright 1992 by Ronn Foss. Text material © copyright 1992 by William Schelly. **Further information about commissioning Custom Art by Ronn Foss can be obtained by sending $1.00 to him at: Route #3, Box 40, Birch Tree, Missouri, 65438.**

Hamster Press No. 50

"The Liberty Legion" from STAR-STUDDED COMICS #4 (1964) was Fandom's Justice Society. The Texas Trio solicited Foss to illustrate Chapter One of the 5 part saga.

FOR THE FIRST TIME THE WORLD'S SIX MOST POWERFUL BEINGS MEET ATOP A NAMELESS MOUNTAIN NEAR A SMALL MID-WESTERN CITY—
AS ASTRAL MAN GAVE ME A RIDE HERE WE LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT EACH OTHER... BUT WHO ARE THE REST OF YOU?
WHAT STRANGELY GARBED MORTALS!
SAY, YOU'RE DR. WEIRD, AREN'T YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT— AND YOU'RE THE DEFENDER I'VE READ ALL ABOUT!

THE FOX:
The Fox Returns!

This excerpt (5 pages of 16) should give the reader a good idea of Foss at his most free-wheeling and playful. Ronn was a big fan of James Bond, and the Fox is one of two strips (the other is Jim 'Laser' Beam) where he tried his hand at a dashing plain-clothes hero. He told me that Lloyd Bridges was his model for The Fox.

THE BLACK PHANTOM

FANTASY ILLUSTRATED editor Bill Spicer first approached black comic artist Richard "Grass" Green to illustrate Steve Perrin's origin of the first black amateur costumed hero. Though Grass turned him down, it is somehow fitting that his lifelong friend took up the assignment in his stead. The "cross-burning" on page 7 is a knock-out!

ANGELIQUE

All four pages appeared in RIP OFF COMIX #28, edited by Kathe Todd. They allow the writer/artist a canvas to comment on religion, politics and, of course, sex. Angelique is one of Ronn's personal favorite projects.

THE ECLIPSE:
Witch Hunt!

Six years elapsed between the second and third adventures of the "Master of the Midnight Hours," this time a tale both written and drawn by R.E.F. "Witch Hunt" reflects his interest in the subject of witchcraft, and finds a clever way to place the mutual attraction of Craig Pierce and Tess Aster in the center of the plot.

EXCEL:
Excel VS. Siren!

With GREEN LANTERN #76 (1970), relevancy came to comics ... pro comics, that is. Ronn had completed this incendiary installment of his Excel trilogy the year before. Ronn and Coreen were living in San Francisco at the time, and involved with the Society for Creative Anachronism. The final panel is undeniably powerful. STAR STUDDED COMICS inexplicably relegated "Siren Defeats Excel!" to 1/2-size printing; I'm pleased to be able to present it here, for the first time, in its intended format.

Now that the second RETROSPECTIVE has been completed, my only regret is that it has been impossible to truly showcase the breadth of the man's talent and accomplishments. Although he moved away from the super hero genre in the early 1970's, Ronn remained prolific and has tried his hand at virtually every variation of sequential art, from a daily-style 3-panel humor strip called "O'Zarx Himself," to underground comix-type material, as well as stories dealing with environmental concerns and other societal problems. In addition, he has done hundreds of drawings of mermaids, which could easily make up a charming volume in and of themselves. Perhaps some time in the future these fascinating and often provocative works can be gathered together for publication.

Fannishly,

Bill Schelly

Bill Schelly

Silver DALLAS
1880—THE WEST IS BECOMING SETTLED AND THE NOBEL RED MAN SLOWLY VANISHING. IN A BACK ROOM OF THE LONGHORN BAR IN TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA, A POKER GAME CONTINUES...
ONE CARD DEALER!
D'YA FEEL LUCKY, DALLAS? I'M RAISIN' YOU... FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS!!
YEP—I FIGURE ON TAKIN' THAT POT AGAIN!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, SOONS YOU GIVE ME A CARD, I'LL CALL AND RAISE ANOTHER FIVE HUNDRED!
I FOLD!
ME TOO!!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! I DON'T TAKE CARDS FROM THE BOTTOM!
YORE ASKIN' FER IT, DALLAS!
DON'T MAKE ME KILL YOU, DEALER—
BUT BEFORE SILVER CAN CLEAR HIS HOLSTER—
GET RID O' HIM.
NEXT WEEK: CHICO!

(Clockwise from upper left) Ronn a la The Viper (KOMIX ILLUSTRATED #5), credit box from Valentines in NOT BRAND ECCH! #13, FANG logo (Foss-and-Green), Silver Dallas sample (ca. 1960), Solano The Brave from VOICE OF COMICDOM, O'Zarx Himself sample, and Foss working on the origin of The Eclipse in California (1962).

BEGORRAH, LADDY—Y DINNA THINK I DUNNO THAT EVEN NOO-KLE-YER CANNA KIRE OUT EVERYTHING!
EVEN IF IT DON'T HIT MY GROUND ZERO, IT'S JUSTA MATTER OF TIME...
AFORE THE RADIATION PIZUNS ALL 'ROUND THE WORLD!
THE WHOLE GLOBE WORLD, AS IN ENTIRE MAP OF?
EVER LIL TINY BIT THERE OF!
CAN YA LEND ME A SHOVEL, LADDY—I'M GONE DIG A DEEP HOLE!
QUICK!
9
©'62 Foss

FOSS

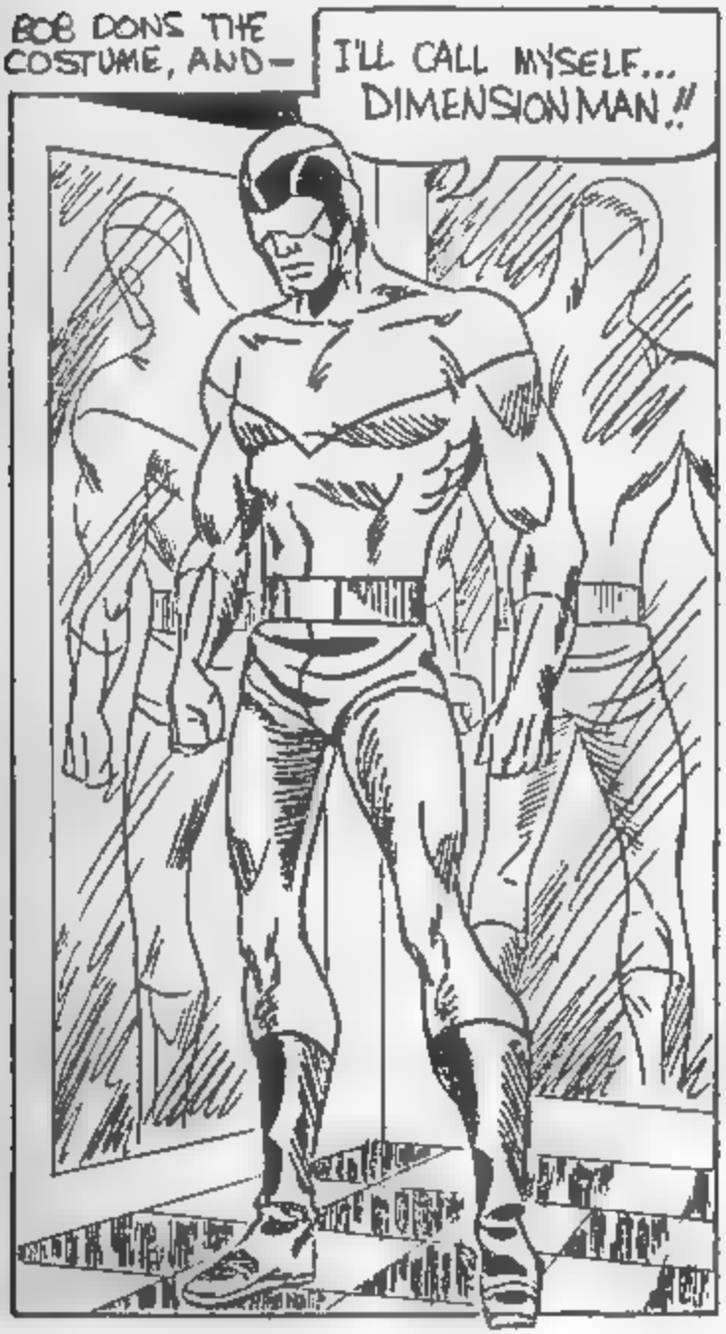
MASTER OF THE MIDNIGHT HOURS... SWIFT, SILENT-AS-A-SHADOW SENTINEL... CAT-LIKE NEMESIS OF INJUSTICE—

WE'VE FINALLY WON!
1944/1964
18
FOSS

SPOTLITE on DIMENSION MAN

Created by PARLEY HOLMAN 1961

Illustrated by RONN FOSS



by Bill Schelly

On March 18, 1992 I talked with Parley Holman on the telephone about his early association with Ronn Foss. This brief article on Dimension Man, the character they co-created, is partly derived from my notes of that conversation.

* * * *

Parley Holman saw his first fanzines when he was about twelve years old. "There were E.C. fanzines that I had discovered through the ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN letter column around 1959," he said "Sometime in the spring of 1961 I got a truncated version of ALTER-EGO #1. Jerry Bails was sending it out to people who had letters published in comics. I thought, gosh, I can do something just as good as this!" Par began writing people like Roy Thomas for contributions to his proposed fanzine, to be called SPOTLITE

"I think Roy sent Ronn a copy of my letter," Par recalled. Ronn wrote Holman asking what was needed, stating that he was an artist. Ronn had recently been discharged from the Air Force in Fairfield, California and was plunging back into the field of comic strips with an eye toward turning pro. He was 21 and living with his wife Myra. Foss was a godsend to the young Salt Lake City fan, and Par began discussing a possible comic strip with him.

"I had this idea for a character called Dimension Man. And then Ronn came along I told him about my idea for the character, and on his own he drew a little illustration at the bottom of one of his letters. The character's visualization more or less came from that drawing of Ronn's." They agreed to collaborate, and soon Foss was taking pencil to his first spirit duplicator masters. Like Roy Thomas with the "Bestest League of America" parody in ALTER EGO, Ronn chose to use black dittos (rather than the usual purple); coupled with Par's inexperience

DIMENSION MAN

with operating a spirit duplicator, the first chapter printed poorly, and there were less than 100 copies made of SPOTLITE #1. It was mailed about November 25th, 1961. (This was pinpointed because Ronn had an auction ad inside with a November 30th deadline. Though the issue was mailed prior to the deadline, slow 3rd class mail delivery caused most copies to be received in the first week of December, too late to respond to the ad.)

Dimension Man was created very much in the mold of the Schwartz-edited super heroes of DC, whose powers could be explained scientifically. Like Barry Allen, Bob Black was a policeman, in this case an undercover detective. His powers were induced by accidental exposure to a "strange yellow ray" invented by a renegade scientist known as Dr. Demon. He gained the power to "warp dimensions to any given destination by sheer will power," teleporting himself instantly anywhere.

Dimension Man's battle against Dr. Damon appeared in installments over the first three issues of SPOTLITE, for a total of 21 pages, each chapter written by a different writer. Part I was penned by Holman, Part II by Dean Newman, and Part III ("Trapped in the 4th Dimension!") by Steve Perrin. Perrin, who later collaborated with Foss on Black Phantom in FANTASY ILLUSTRATED #6, did a tremendous job on the conclusion, by far the strongest chapter.

The art, which showed Foss' admiration for Simon and Kirby, was rather awkward at first. Holman remembers, "Ronn was as good as anybody who was being published in the comics at the time." Well, not quite. He wouldn't hit his early "peak" until late 1962 with The Eclipse. Still, even at the start he was head and shoulders above most amateur artists. After all, he'd been working at it for over five years before he became involved in Fandom.

Later, in 1964, Ronn wrote and illustrated the last Dimension Man adventure entitled "Velvet of Venus!" for G. B. Love's FIGHTING HERO COMICS #12. Unfortunately, there were no further stories of this unique character, whose potential was never really explored. (Such was often the fate of amateur characters, who appeared with great fanfare -- then vanished.)

In preparing the RONN FOSS RETROSPECTIVE #1, I discovered that Part I of Dimension Man was Ronn's first original super hero strip published. Upon conducting further research, I began to suspect what I now believe. Dimension Man was the first amateur super hero strip created for and published in Comicdom, period! Thus, Dimension Man has a special place in the history of Comic Fandom.

True, I have only seen a few fanzines from 1961. It is doubtful that the SF fanzines that ran comic articles at the time (XERO, SKYBIRD, SO WHAT featured original heroes for Fandom, nor did ALTER EGO until later) or COMIC ART. THE COMICOLLECTOR (Sept. 1961) and ROCKET'S BLAST (Dec. 1961) were mainly adzines.

Certainly, many were in the planning stages or simply unpublished. Soon Bill Jo White would make the scene with KOMIX ILLUSTRATED, which launched many characters, but this was not until July of the following year.

SPOTLITE lasted a total of 4 issues. "I believe 1964 was about when I bailed out. I frankly discovered sex," Par commented, laughing. "I got a girlfriend and that was what I became interested in. I've been peripherally active in one kind of Fandom or another for the past 38 years."

The COWL

Originally appeared in MASQUERADER #6 (1964) © Foss

FIVE AFTER FOUR, AND NO JIM SPADE YET!
AT A PARKSIDE CAFE A LOVELY GIRL WAITS IMPATIENTLY
Chateau
HE ALWAYS MANAGES TO PICK SUCH OUT OF THE WAY SPOTS ... HE'S ALMOST STRANGE SOMETIMES!
JIM! JIM!
OH - I BEG YOUR PARDON! I THOUGHT YOU WERE JIM SPADE, A FRIEND OF MINE... 'M SORRY!!
SO AM I SORRY!
A MISTAKE... ANYONE COULD'VE MADE: FORGET IT!!
HA-HAH! NO WONDER SHE MISTOOK ME FOR SPADE ... IRONICALLY, EVEN THOUGH I'M HIS ARCH-ENEMY WE'RE ALMOST TWINS!!
NO DOUBT HE THINKS ME DEAD... BUT IF HE EVER CAREFULLY READS THE NEWSPAPERS HE'LL FIND I SOMEHOW ESCAPED THE AUTO CRASH!!
HE MIGHT EVEN REALIZE HOW EASY IT AS TO CHECK POLICE RECORDS AND FIGURE OUT BY SIMPLE DEDUCTION THAT HE'S THE COWL!!

AND NOW, AFTER CAREFUL STUDY, I'VE FINALLY PLANNED MY REVENGE!
EIGHT O'CLOCK, AND A DEJECTED SANDRA SAUNDERS RETURNS TO HER APARTMENT—
JIM HAD CERTAINLY BETTER HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE FOR STANDING ME UP!
AS SANDY UN-LOCKS HER DOOR—
MMPHH!
CHLOROFORM DID THE TRICK! WHEN SPADE SHOWS UP HERE TONIGHT THAT NOTE WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!
NINE O'CLOCK, AND A SHEEPISH JIM SPADE ARRIVES, ONLY TO FIND NO ANSWER TO HIS REPEATED KNOCKS...
SANDY, I'M SORRY I'M SO LATE — PLEASE LET ME IN! GIVE ME A CHANCE TO TRY TO EXPLAIN!
TRYING THE DOOR, JIM FINDS IT UNLOCKED —
SANDY, I'M VERY SORRY I... SANDY? HMMM — SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HERE! WHAT'S THIS... A NOTE —
SOMEHOW HE'S DISCOVERED MY SECRET! I THINK I'D BETTER SHOW UP AS THE COWL!!
SHORTLY, AT AN OLD MANSION IN THE SUBURBS —
HE HAS SANDY, AND SHE APPEARS TO BE DRUGGED!
3

WITHOUT BREAKING HIS PACE OR A MOMENTS HESITATION —
EVEN BEFORE THE LAST TINKLE OF GLASS DIES AWAY, COWL IS AT H.S FIANCE'S SIDE...
SANDY—SANDY, WAKE UP! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? SANDY, SPEAK TO ME —
Uhhh—JIM. IS IT REALLY YOU? WHAT HAPPENED??
IT'S REALLY H.M. MISS SAUNDERS' OR SHOULD I SAY, WAS HIM!!
NEBULA! WELL HAVE THIS OUT HERE AND NOW.
BEFORE NEBULA CAN AIM CAREFULLY, THE COWL LEAPS ACROSS THE ROOM—
BLAM!
REGAINING HIS FEET, NEBULA RETALIATES—
ONLY TO BE COUNTERED AGAIN—
UNLESS YOU HAVE SOME OBJECTION, I'D LIKE TO TRY TO GET THIS OVER WITH!
AS HE FALLS, A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING DROPS FROM NEBULA'S POCKET—

CATCHING HIS ATTENTION, THE YELLOWED SCRAP IS PICKED UP BY COWL—

WHAT'S THIS? AN OLD NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ABOUT ME..

AS COWL READS THE PAPER, A GREAT LOAD IS TAKEN OFF HIS MIND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS, SINCE —

"I WAS DETECTIVE J.T., AND MY FRIEND KEN DAVIS HAD JUST BEEN APPOINTED TO THE POLICE FORCE

P.D.

"—KEN WAS BRAGGING ABOUT HOW GOOD A COP HE'D MAKE. AND I COULDN'T HELP BUT BOAST THAT I WAS A BETTER DETECTIVE... HE LAUGHED, THEN GOT MAD!"

"IN ANGER, I STRUCK BACK! NEITHER OF US KNEW THERE WAS AN UPRIGHT BROKEN BOTTLE IN HIS PATH — UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE!! I PANICED AND RAN, KNOWING I'D BE BLAMED —"

"I STILL WANTED TO FIGHT CRIME, SO I STAYED IN HIDING DURING THE DAY, THEN DONNED AN OPERA CAPE AND MASK AT NIGHT!"

CHRONICLE
MYSTERIOUS HERO STOPS ROBBERY LEAVES SCENE

ESCAPED CONVICT CAPTURED BY MYSTERY MAN

"WHEN I FIRST ENCOUNTERED THE NEBULA, OUR BATTLE ENDED WITH HIS AUTO CRASH — I ESCAPED, BUT DIDN'T THINK HE POSSIBLY COULD!"

AND THIS CLIPPING TELLS ME THAT KEN DAVIS LIVED AND EXPLAINED ALL! I'M A FREE MAN!!
NOW THAT WE'VE ESTABLISHED THAT, HOW ABOUT FREEING ME, JIM??
RELEASING SANDY, COWL BINDS NEBULA FOR HIS DELIVERY TO JAIL—
I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR DISGUISE, BUT WHY THE ASTRONOMICAL INFLUENCE IN HIM?
I GATHER HE'S A WOULD-BE ASTROLOGER— HENCE THE NAME NEBULA!
IRONIC THAT AN ENEMY WOULD DO ME SO MUCH GOOD - THIS WILL PROBABLY BE MY LAST WORK AS THE COWL!
DETECTIVE JIM SPADE SUITS ME JUST FINE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING MYSELF BUT I'VE PLENTY OF TIME NOW TO EXPLAIN WHAT I CAN!
AS THE COWL RECALLS HIS STRANGE PAST AND EVEN STRANGER THIRST OF FORTUNE, ANOTHER LAWBREAKER TWINGES WITH ANTICIPATION OF HIS FUTURE. SO ENDS THE STORY OF A COSTUMED-HERO!!
Finis

The Eclipse
MASTER OF THE MID-NIGHT HOURS. SILENT SWIFT AS A SHADOW
the MYSTERY of MALIMOOR!
KNEW FULL WELL THE LEGEND SURROUNDING ITS
THE WONDERFUL NONSENSE OF THEIR "HAUNTED
HOUSEWARMING" WOULD BE INTERRUPTED BY STARK
TERROR-OWN THE ECLIPSE DARED BRAVE THE
SUPERNATURAL TO FIND THE SOLUTION TO...
LARGER-WEAKENING ME!!
CAN IT BE THAT MALIMOOR
THIS IS THE MELANCHOLY STORY
ALONE AND UNLOVED AND ITS

Originally appeared in ALTER EGO #8 (1965)

"THEN CAME THAT FATEFUL YEAR OF THE GREAT FAMINE — WHEN CROPS FAILED. MAN COULD NOT LIVE..."
"THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN THE VILLAGE OF CRESCENT WAS KEMMET MALIMOOR, WHO MADE A FORTUNE
OUT WITH YOU— ALL OF YOU! I WON'T LEND A CENT!!
"TIS SAID THAT PLAGUE AND PESTILENCE WERE RAMPANT IN THE
HALF ITS POPULATION WERE TAKEN — AND ONE OF THE SICKENED, AN ANOINED WITCH, PRONOUNCED A CURSE..."
YOUR SOUL HAS CONDEMNED YOU AND SHALL BE YOUR REWARD, AND THE DEVIL HIMSELF YOUR EXECUTIONER!
AIEEE!!
"AND KEMMET MALIMOOR DID OR DID HE? NO ONE EVER REALLY KNEW! 'TIS SAID AT MIDNIGHT, ON A MOONLESS, DARK NIGHT, A GHOSTLY FIREBALL CAN BE SEEN FLOATING ABOUT MALIMOOR!!"
AMONG THE GUESTS ARE DR. CRAIG (THE ECLIPSE) PIERCE AND HIS PERSONAL NURSE, TERESA AS
BUT THAT JUST TERRIFYING DR PIERCE? TO THINK THE GHOST MAN STILL EXIST!

IT MIGHT AT THAT, MISS ASTER - AND I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF IT VISITED US TONIGHT!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU COME HERE .. YOU'RE STILL N DELICATE HEALTH AFTER THAT AWFUL LAB EXPLOSION*!

*SEE ALTER EGO-5 ORIGIN

I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE'S TRYING TO CONVINCE - HERSELF OR ME BUT IT'S MY OWN FAULT I SUPPOSE... WHEN I THOUGHT - D BE BLIND FOR LIFE, THE HOSPITAL SENT ME A WELFARE WORKER - MISS ASTER

D DISCHARGE HER IN A MOMENT IF I WOULDN'T CREATE SUSPICION OF MISS ASTER END OF THE ECLIPSE BESIDES I'VE GROWN A BIT FOND OF THIS ENDEARING LITTLE SCATTER-BRAIN.

HERE COME OUR HOSTS THE PHELPSES..

SO THERE YOU ARE DR PIERCE - AND THIS MUST BE YOUR RECEPTIONIST MISS TERESA ASTER?!

ENJOYING THE PARTY, DR PIERCE?

THE NIGHT IS YOUNG - JUST REMEMBER WE AREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR GUESTS' SAFETY THOSE WHO CAME DID SO AT THEIR OWN RISK!!

LATER AS CRAIG SURVEYS THE GATHERING -

THERE'S ENOS CRAMER THE BANKER - MR PHELPS IS HIS CHIEF ACCOUNTANT YET HE SEEMS TO BE AVOIDING THE PHELPSES HMMM -

AS THE BUTLER AND MAID ENTER -

THAT'S ODD.. SAM BORDEN AND LUCY KNOWLIN! THEY WERE DOING TIME FOR A GOLD SWINDLE THE LAST I HEARD OF THEM - WONDER IF OUR HOST KNOWS

SUDDENLY, THE LIGHTS DIM -

MUST BE GETTING CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT - TIME FOR THE GHOST OF MALMOOR MANOR

AND OUT OF THE DARKNESS -

YIIEEE!

FLAP FLAP CLAP FLAP

THUMP!

GHOSTLY SOUNDS - MUST BE ON TAPE

OOHHH

ARGH

UH-OH THAT LAST ONE SOUNDS TOO REAL

CATLIKE EYES PIERCING THE GLOOM, CRAIG MOVES THROUGH THE DARKENED HALLS UNT—
IT'S CRAMER NEAR DEATH— AND THERE GOES HIS ASSAILANT!
FADING INTO THE DARKNESS, CRAIG OPENS HIS SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED BELT BUCKLE EXPOSING THE PHOTO-CELL BENEATH HIS SUIT ALTERS ITS CONTOURS AND THE STRIKING COSTUME OF THE ECLIPSE APPEARS
INSTANTLY, THE MASTER OF MIDNIGHT HOURS UTILIZES HIS NEGATIVE-MATTER ABILITY—
WHA! THROUGH THE WALL—?
NOW WE'LL SEE WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE—UHN!
SECONDS LATER—
ESCAPED! I MIGHT'VE KNOWN THERE'D BE TWO OF THEM. I'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT CRAMER AS DR PIERCE"
SHIELDING HIS EYES FROM THE SUDDEN GLARE WHICH HE KNOWS WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR HIM,* CRAIG TURNS ON THE LIGHT—
UHH— FIREBALL... GHOSTLY FIREBALL— HARD TO BREATHE!
EASY, CRAMER— YOUR PULSE IS WEAK BUT WE'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL
*DR PIERCE IS A VICTIM OF CHRONIC LIGHT-SENSITIVITY, A TYPE OF BLINDNESS!

LATER AS DAWN STREAKS THE SKY—
I'M AT JAMESON HOMICIDE! WE LEARNED THAT SOMEONE TRIED TO SUFFOCATE CRAMER WITH POTASSIUM OF CYANIDE. AND HAMILTON GLENN ONE OF YOUR GUESTS HERE WHO WORKS FOR THE TREASURY DEPT, FOUND THERE'S A HALF MILLION DOLLARS MISSING FROM CRAMER'S BOOKS"
YOU'RE CRAMER'S ACCOUNTANT, MR. PHELPS SO I'M ARRESTING YOU ON SUSPICION OF ATTEMPTED MURDER
LATE THAT NIGHT A STRANGELY GARBED FIGURE POURS OVER OLD NEWSPAPER FILES IN THE CRESCENT CITY LIBRARY—
HMMM- WHEN CRAIG PIERCE VISITED JOHN PHELPS IN HIS CELL TODAY, HE MENTIONED THAT ENOS CRAMER HAD WANTED TO BUY MAN MOOR... NOW I CAN SEE WHY!

SHORTLY AT THE MANOR
UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THIS OLD RELIC IS PROBABLY HONEYCOMBED WITH SECRET PASSAGES
PASSING THROUGH— HMMM SOMEONE ELSE IS ALSO INTERESTED!

ALL RIGHT, YOU— LET'S HAVE AN EXPLAN.. WHA? MISS ASTER!
Ohhh - LET ME GO YOU YOU BRUTE
Y-YOU! YOU'RE THAT CRIME FIGHTER THE ECLIPSE... I'VE READ ABOUT YOU IN THE NEWSPAPERS! I CAME TO LOOK FOR DR PIERCE— HE FANCIES HIMSELF A DETECTIVE OF SORTS.. HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?
NO I'VE NEVER EVER MET THE DOCTOR
WELL, AS LONG AS I'M HERE, I MAY AS WELL HELP YOU. NOW IT'S OBVIOUS THAT MR. PHELPS WAS FRAMED. SO, THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING THE CULPRIT WANTS! BUT WE'RE GOING TO FIND IT FIRST RIGHT?!

T-IT'S UNCANNY!
MONTHS OF PRETTY EMPTY-HEADED BLONDES.
THERE'RE HIDDEN PASSAGES HERE MASTER IF YOU REALLY WANT TO ME, YOU'LL STAY HERE AND ACT AS MY LOOKOUT!!
ECLIPSE YOU LET ME IN THIS INSTANT TO GET RID OF ME THIS EASILY!
OH MY ACHING BACK! SHE'LL ALERT EVERYONE IN THE MANOR WITH THAT INCESSANT POUNDING!
ALRIGHT MASTER. JUST A MOMENT
A HIDDEN PANEL! IT-IT'S AWFULLY DARK IN HERE!
SHH - JUST HOLD MY HAND, DARKNESS IS NO PROBLEM TO ME!
SHORTLY DOWN THE DARK PASSAGES -
OH NO - IT'S M.M. AUS-UMPH!
AND THIS TIME YOU WON'T ESCAPE.
HOWEVER AT THAT SAME INSTANT -
HURRAY! I FOUND A LIGHT SWITCH!!
OH - MY EYES!

RECOVERING CONSCIOUSNESS THE PAIR FIND—
A-A SHIMMERING FIREBALL! IT KEEPS GETTING LARGER MAKING ME WEAK
THE MAU'MOOR LEGEND.. IT-IT'S TRUE!
MEANWHILE, NEAR THE HIDDEN DOORWAY LEADING OUT OF THE PASSAGE—
WE WON'T NEED THESE ANYMORE, CYNTHIA M'DONE! AS SOON AS OUR "FIREBALL" HAS DONE ITS JOB, I'LL GO BACK AND GET IT"
NO ONE WILL EVER FIND THEM... NO ONE ELSE KNOWS OF THIS PASSAGE
RATHER CLEVER OF US, ISN'T IT, HAM — JUST THINK ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN PRE-COLONIAL GOLD COINS, AND IT'S ALL OURS!
HA-HAH! THAT'S THE ADVANTAGE OF WORKING FOR THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT—ONE GETS TO KNOW THESE THINGS: OF COURSE, I DIDN'T ELIMINATE CRAMER'S RIVALRY AS I'D PLANNED, BUT AT LEAST WE HAVE THE GOLD TO CONSOLE US!!
AS HAMILTON GLENN AND HIS WIFE PREPARE TO LEAVE—
THERE THEY ARE
THE MODIFIED LASER BEAM EMITS OPAQUE BLACKNESS—
7

THROUGH THE MURKY DARKNESS, ECLIPSE ... *AND* TERESA ASTER – STRIKE!

OH DARN-THERE GOES MY *OTHER* HEEL! BUT IT'S WORTH IT JUST TO PAY MRS. GLENN BACK FOR THAT CRACK ON THE HEAD SHE GAVE ME!

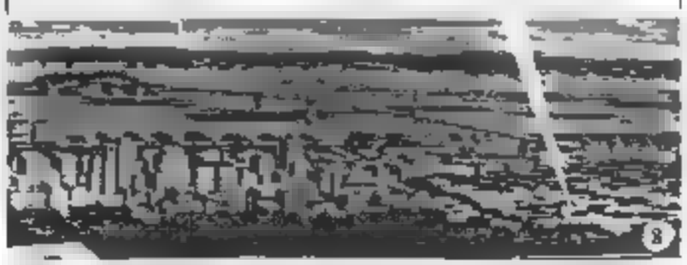
SPIKED HEELS ARE THE HANDIEST THINGS EVER INVENTED, AREN'T THEY, ECLIPSE?! I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED TO US IF I HADN'T WORKED MY SHOE OFF IN TIME TO WEDGE THE SPIKED HEEL INTO THAT CYANIDE-LOADED 'FIREBALL' SMOKE-GENERATOR!!

THE NEXT DAY, A BLISSFUL REUNION TAKES PLACE AT MALIMOOR MANOR–

SO KEMMET MALIMOOR *WAS* A MISER AND BEFORE HIS *NATURAL* DEATH IN 1769, HE HID AWAY A MILLION BUCKS IN GOLD COINS HERE IN A SECRET ROOM–

WHICH ARE NOW WORTH NEARLY FOUR TIMES THAT AMOUNT BECAUSE OF THEIR RARITY RIGHT LIEUTENANT?

RIGHT, DR. PIERCE! AND ENOS CRAMER FACED RUINATION DUE TO EMBEZZLING A HALF-MILLION FROM HIS OWN BANK, WE LEARNED, TO INVEST IN ONE OF SAM BORDEN'S FAKE 'TRIPLE-YOUR-MONEY' SCHEMES! CRAMER WILL BE ALL RIGHT, BUT HE FACES PRISON FOR EMBEZZLEMENT! WHEN HE LEARNED OF THE MALIMOOR GOLD, HE ASKED HAMILTON GLENN WHAT IT'D BE WORTH *NOW* – WHICH NATURALLY MADE GLENN INTERESTED AND...

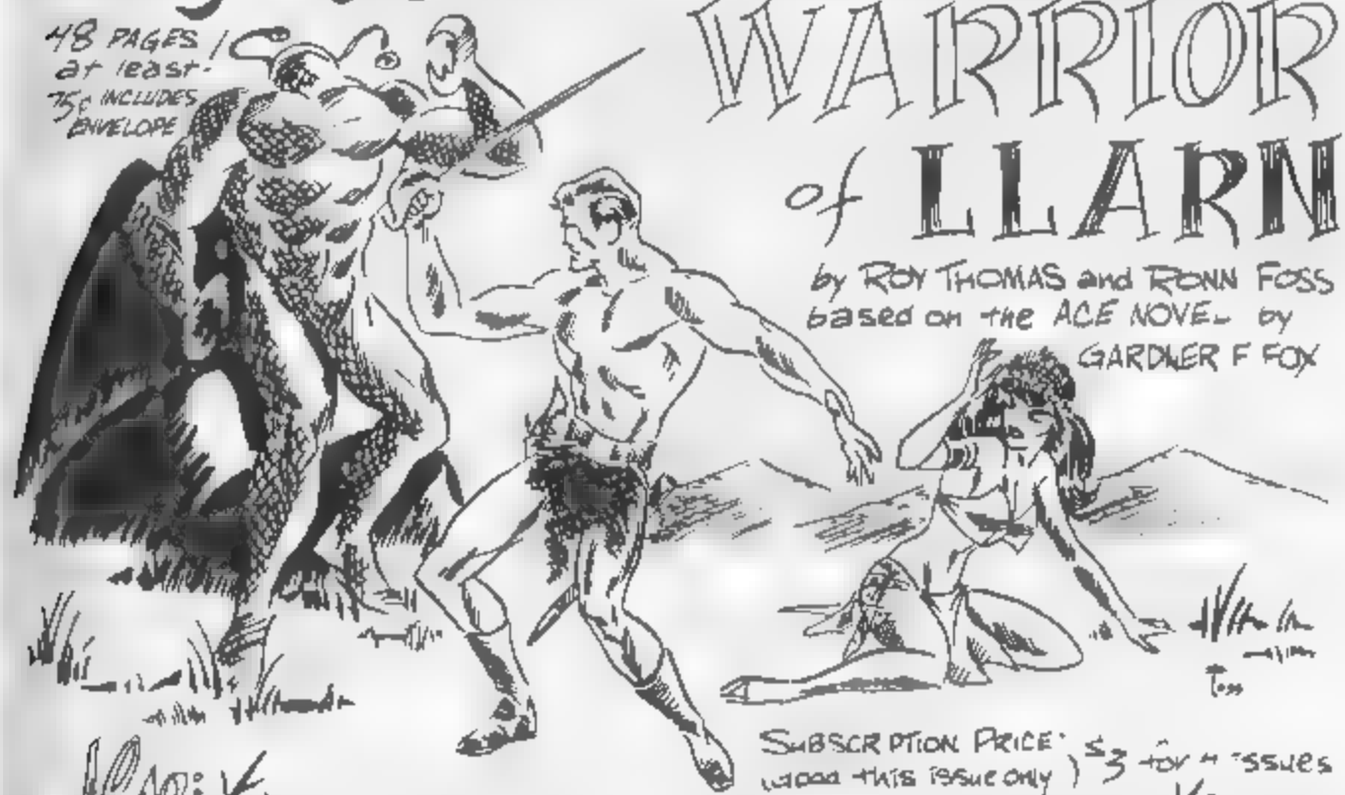


—AND HE SEIZED UPON THE "GHOSTLY FIREBALL" IDEA TO DISPOSE OF HIS COMPETITION FALCON, HE AND HIS WIFE TRIED TO MAKE OFF WITH THE GOLD BEFORE CRAMER COULD RECOVER AND TALK!!
—UNTIL THE ECLIPSE AND I AT THE PRICE OF A GOOD PAIR OF HEELS PUT AN END TO HIS PLANS!
SORRY WE THOUGHT YOU WERE INVOLVED MR. PHELPS
FORGET IT, M— HAPPY NOW THAT —MALMOOR IS CLEARED OF THE LEGEND ALICE DARLING WHAT'S WRONG?
OH I WAS JUST THINKING HOW TASTY WATERMELON WOULD BE!
WATERMELON? BUT THEY'RE OUT OF SEASON ALICE! ARE YOU—
AS YOUR WIFE'S DOCTOR JOHN . D SAY CIGARS ARE IN ORDER
Enos

Coming in AE #9:

Alan Morgan WARRIOR of LLARN

by ROY THOMAS and RONN FOSS
based on the ACE NOVEL by GARDNER F FOX



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Originally appeared in GOSH WOW! #1 (1987) © Foss

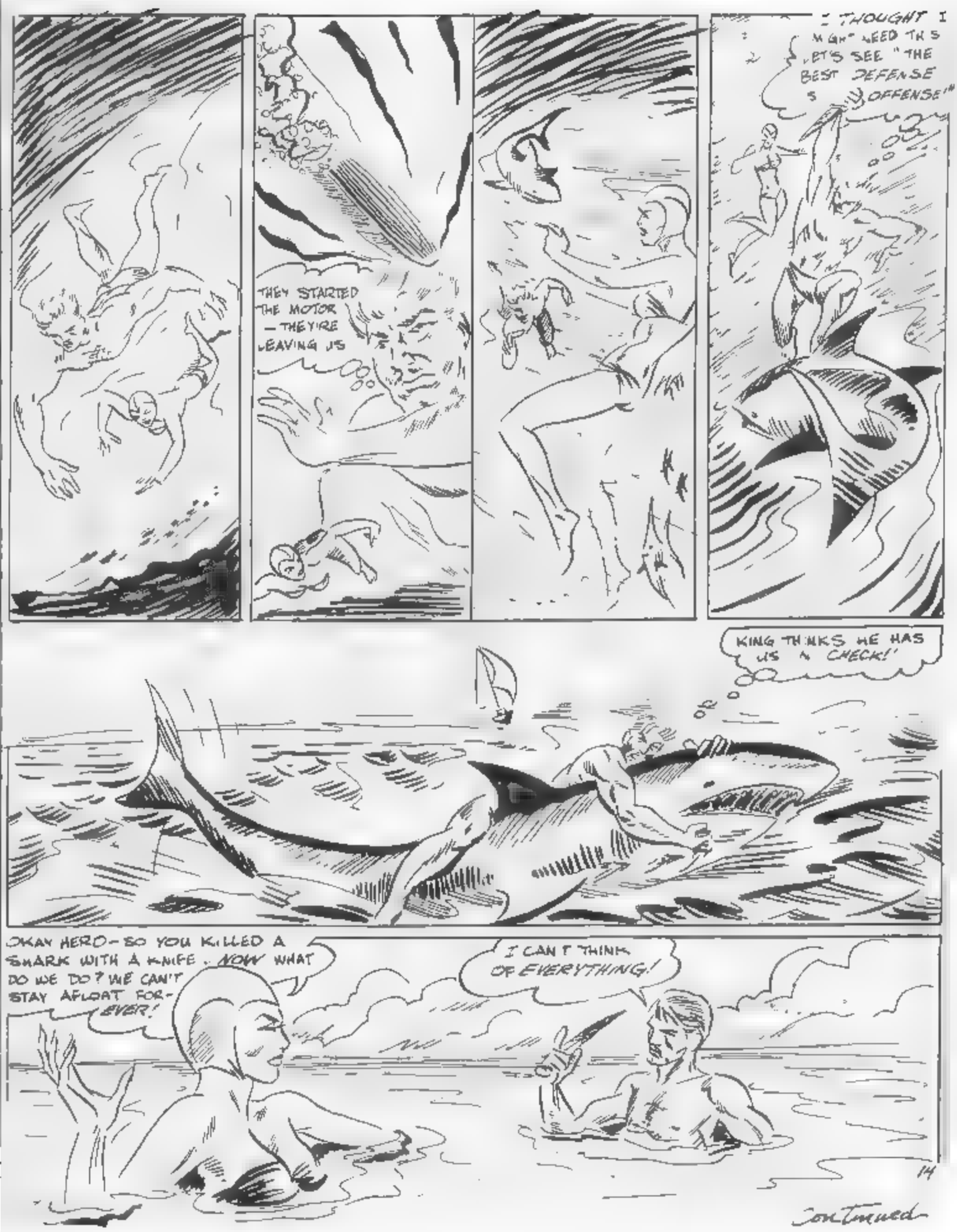
THE
DUST STORM SAILED TO A
LOS ANGELES MAGNA -
AS THE OLD SAYING GOES,
"THIS MUST BE THE PLACE!"
BLACK
KNIGHT
THE FOX,
I PRESUME?
"HAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME —
AND YOU'RE MADAM JADE?
WHAT'S THE CROWD
GATHERED
FOR?
DOWN
WITH
A DEMONSTRATION OF THE
TOPLESS SWIM SUIT!
DISGUSTING
ISN'T IT?
OFF
WITH

IT DEPENDS UPON ONE'S VIEWPOINT — PERSONALLY, I BELIEVE IN INDIVIDUALISM!
THEN YOU WOULDN'T CONDEMN ANYONE FOR BEING IMPULSIVE?
SO LONG AS NOBODY GETS HURT
YOU'LL PARDON THE INTERRUPTION BECAUSE IT HAPPENS I OWN THIS ■OAT
STORM, I'M SURE YOU'LL RECOGNIZE AN OLD FRIEND OF YOURS —
"DIAMOND STUDD"
MY ONLY FRIEND IS THIS MAGNUM!
I'VE BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT THIS SINCE YOU SENT ME UP, FOX!!
10

THE
FOX
Written & Illustrated by Rocco Fosco
©1966 by R.F.Co.
ABOARD THE 'BLACK KNIGHT', KING CHESSMAN HAS JUST BROUGHT DIAMOND STUDD FACE TO FACE WITH SCOTT—
NOW YOU'LL GET YOURS, STORM!
I MIGHT COST ME A PAWN TO WIN THIS GAME!
YOU'RE AS SLOW AS EVER, STUDD
STOP!
NOW THAT YOU'VE BOTH DECLARED YOUR AFFECTION FOR EACH OTHER, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!
I'M NOT HERE TO PLAY GAMES, CHESSMAN—
NOR AM I KING— WHAT'S THE SCORE ANYWAY?
I'VE GATHERED YOU ALL HERE TOGETHER TO FILM THE GREATEST MOTION PICTURE EPIC EVER MADE!!
WITH YOUR PAST NOTORIETY FOR BEING SMUGGLERS AND THIEVES, THE PUBLICITY WILL MAKE THE PICTURE A SMASH HIT!
NOW JUST A MINUTE—
KNIGHT

HE'S NOT REFERRING TO YOU, FOX - THOSE CHOKE TITLES ARE FOR DIAMOND AND I'
OF COURSE, STORM - YOU ARE THEIR NEMESIS!
YOU'LL SIMPLY ALL PLAY YOURSELVES IN THE FILM THE EMERALD GODDESS!
ALL WE LACK IS A LEADING LADY SOMEONE YOU CAN TRUST, NATURALLY.
YEAH - AND I KNOW JUST THE LADY!
CIGARS
Fantastic Films
HERE'S THE SYNOPSIS — YOU, STORM ARE VACATIONING IN SANTA CATALINA ISLAND WHEN YOU DISCOVER MADAM JADE SMUGGLING GEMS FROM HONG KONG ...
San Francisco
Monterey
PACIFIC OCEAN
Los Angeles
San Diego
Tijuana
SHIP SCHMITT
EARLY NEXT MORNING —
MISS DAWN YOU'LL PLAY AN EXOTIC DANCER WHO TRIES TO AID THE FOX!
I HAVE A FEELING THIS IS A PUT-UP JOB, LAURA! STAY CLOSE WHEN THE FILMING STARTS!
DON'T WORRY - I WON'T LEAVE YOUR SHADOW.
Continued

The FOX
...AND THE EPIC EMERALD GODDESS BEGINS IN SANTA CATALINA ISLAND, OFF THE CALIFORNIA COAST WHERE A SUIT IS ON HIM FOR HUNTING
...AND MEETS LAURA DAWN
THEY RELEASE HIM AS A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR AND TELLS HIM...
OF A SMUGGLING OPERATION AFTER THE MILLION DOLLAR EMERALD GODDESS
A WOMAN A MAN THEY ARE HOT TO TRACK A MADAM JADE A WOMAN SMUGGLER
THEY ARE LED TO ORIENTAL SANCTUMS WHERE THEY MEET DIAMOND HOO
WHO PROMISES NO MATTER FOR THE FOX HOW MADAM JADE HERSELF IS AT HAND
BUT WE ABOUT TO SURRENDER THE DEADLESS FIGURINE THE DRUMS THROW A CORAL REEF
THE FOX
UNDERWATER IT IS SOUGHT BY THE FOX AND LAURA DAWN
WE HAD TO COME THIS FAR OUT SO THE CAMERA WOULDN'T FILM ANY LAND AREAS! NOW JUST GET USED TO THE WATER THEN WE'LL PHOTOGRAPH YOU GOING UNDER
DIAMOND WILL WATCH FOR SHARKS JUST IN CASE!!

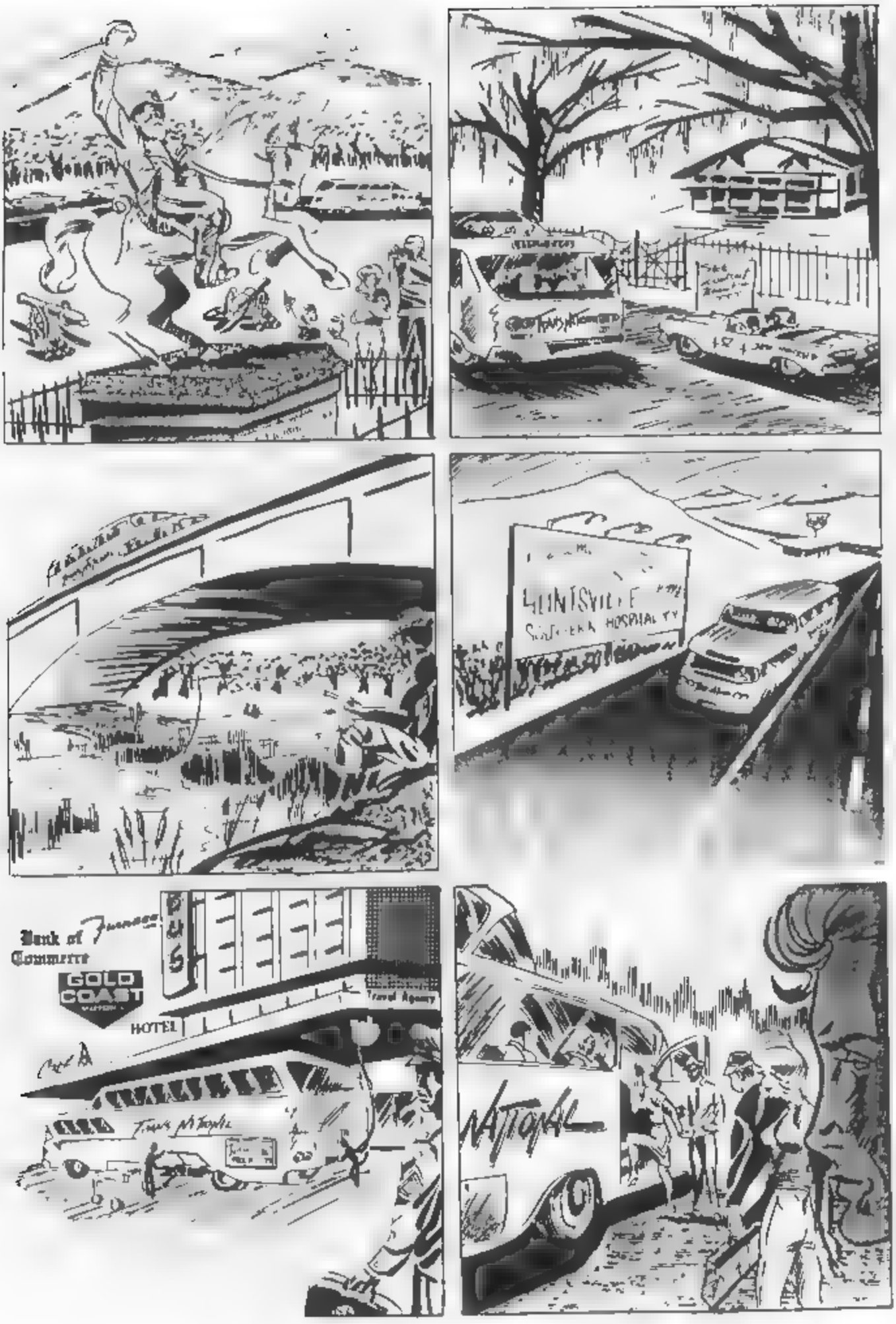

THEY STARTED THE MOTOR — THEY'RE LEAVING US
I THOUGHT I MIGHT NEED THIS LET'S SEE "THE BEST DEFENSE IS OFFENSE!"
KING THINKS HE HAS US IN CHECK!
OKAY HERO — SO YOU KILLED A SHARK WITH A KNIFE. NOW WHAT DO WE DO? WE CAN'T STAY AFLOAT FOR-EVER!
I CAN'T THINK OF EVERYTHING!

continued

the ORIGIN of The BLACK PHANTOM

STORY BY STEVE PERRIN
ART BY RONN FOSS
LETTERING BY BILL SPICER
NIGGER. KIKE. WOP INJUN.. GOOK. GREASER. PAPIST. ALL OF THESE ARE LABELS PUT ON OTHERS BY THE HATERS THE PEOPLE WHO MUST DEGRADE THEIR FELLOW MEN BECAUSE THEY FEAR THEM FOR TOO LONG SOCIETY HAS TOLERATED AND EVEN ENCOURAGED THESE BLIGHTS UPON THE STANCHION OF MANKIND. AND NOW THE VICTIMS ARE RISING..
AMONG THESE INSURGENTS IS A FIGHTER FOR EQUALITY WHO PROWLS THE NIGHT, THE ANNONYMITY OF A MASK DISGUISING HIS RACE..
the BLACK PHANTOM

Originally appeared in FANTASY ILLUSTRATED #5 (1966) © Foss


Bank of Commerce
GOLD COAST
HOTEL
NATIONAL

ONE MORNING A YOUNG MAN IS ABOUT TO BOARD A TRANS-NATIONAL BUS, WHEN...
HOL' ON THEAH, MAN...
HUH?
OK
ATLANTIC FEDERAL SAVINGS
DRUG STORE
SHOPPING CENTER
I'M SORRY DRIVER I THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW ME--
OH SO YOU'AH JOEY TRAGER!
AH ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT TRANS-NATIONALS BOY HERO LOOKED LIKE-
Motors, Inc.
JEWELERS
PASS
THE TWO STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION ONCE THE BUS IS ON ITS WAY...
MAN, AH M SORRY AH DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU--AH'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHEAH YOU PICKED UP THAT PASS, ANYWAY...
OH, I WARNED A BUS ONCE THAT WAS ABOUT TO CROSS A BRIDGE THAT WASN'T THERE ANYMORE. THIS WAS WHEN THE COMPANY WAS JUST STARTING, ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO, AND THE OWNER ASKED WHAT I WANTED AS A REWARD--
MY FOLKS WERE DEAD, SO I ASKED FOR A PASS THAT WOULD LET ME TRAVEL WHEREVER I WANTED. I CAN USE IT 'TIL I'M TWENTY-ONE.
DO NOT
IF IT HAD BEEN A NEGRO BOY HE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN A SHINY HALF-DOLLAR, A PAT ON THE HEAD, AND THEN FORGOTTEN.
OH, COME ON NOW, I DON'T--
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ACCENT!?
WELL, I'LL TELL YOU, KID-- SETTLE BACK FOR A STORY THAT'S SHORT AND SWEET...
MOBILE
Cadillac
USED CARS
"US CIGARETTE FIGHTERS WOULD RATHER SMOKE THAN DRINK!"
Exotic Gardens
Gallery
Allied TRUCKING
5.37
TRANS NATIONAL

"THREE YEARS AGO ONE LAFAYETTE JEFFERSON--THAT'S ME--GRADUATED FROM THE CALIFORNIA NSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY..."
" THE NEXT TWO YEARS I SPENT WITH OL UNCLE SAM "
"THEN I TOOK MY DEGREE IN MICRO-ENGINEERING AND MARCHED TO THE CAPTAINS OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY, READY TO ACCEPT A JOB AMONG THEIR STAFFS..."
"EVERYWHERE I WENT I GOT THE SAME THING. I WAS 'TOO OLD' OR 'TOO YOUNG', OR 'WRONG REFERENCES' OR 'WASN'T COMPATIBLE'. EVERY REASON IN THE BOOK EXCEPT THE REAL ONE... I WAS A NEGRO AND NO ONE WITH A BLACK SKIN IS NEEDED FOR WHITE COLLAR JOBS... AT LEAST, NOT THE KIND I WANTED, ANYWAY..."
AUTOMATION, INC.
MANPOWER, INC.
INSTITUTE of ELECTRONICS
HELP WANTED
"SO I FINALLY FELL BACK ON THE WORK I'D DONE WHILE GETTING THROUGH SCHOOL AND APPLIED FOR A JOB HERE..."
FRANKLY, WITH YOUR QUALIFICATIONS YOU SHOULD BE IN A JOB A HUNDRED TIMES BETTER THAN THIS, BUT WE'RE ONE OF THE FEW COMPANIES THAT WILL HIRE NEGROES FOR THIS BIG A JOB. WE'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU UNTIL YOU CAN BREAK INTO THE KIND OF WORK YOU SHOULD HAVE.

SO, I GOT THIS JOB AND I KEEP MY HAND IN WITH ENGINEERING IN MY SPARE TIME. IT'S A GOOD JOB I HAVE QUITE A BIT OF TIME OFF, AND I SEE THE COUNTRY...

GOSH MR. JEFFERSON I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T JUST GIVEN UP BECAUSE NO ONE YOU ASKED WOULD HIRE YOU. THERE MUST BE SOME PLACE THAT WILL HIRE A PERSON BECAUSE OF ABILITY AND NOT APPEARANCE...

TRANSNATIONAL

EVEN IF I GOT THAT JOB I'D HAVE TO WORK FIVE TIMES HARDER THAN ANY WHITE MAN JUST TO KEEP IT. NO, AS LONG AS PEOPLE FEAR SOMEONE WHO'S DIFFERENT AND FIGHT TO KEEP THESE DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN A POSITION WHERE THEY CAN'T HAVE SELF RESPECT, THERE WON'T BE MANY WHITE COLLARS ON BLACK NECKS...

SO HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET THIS RESPECT FOR YOUR 'FEARED' RACE?

BY SHOVING OURSELVES DOWN WHITE THROATS. IT'S NOT THE BEST WAY, MAYBE, NOR THE MOST EFFECTIVE, BUT WE HAVE TO DO IT-- WE'RE PROVING THAT WE DON'T LIKE TO BE STEPPED ON AND WE'RE HITTING THE HATERS BACK WHERE IT HURTS IN THEIR WALLETS.

Ain't America the Land of Opportunity for Your Comfort?

I WORK WITH THE N.A.A.C.P. WHEN I'M OFF DUTY. I'M HEADING DOWN FOR A LITTLE TOWN IN ALABAMA RIGHT NOW, AS SOON AS THIS BUS REACHES ITS DESTINATION. AS FOR THE ACCENT IT'S WHAT'S EXPECTED OF US BLACK BUS DRIVERS..

OH, AND CALL ME LAFE, WILL YOU?

SURE, LAFE. YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE REASONS I'VE BEEN TRAVELLING IS THAT I WANTED TO FIND OUT ABOUT WHAT MAKES MY COUNTRY TICK. I THINK YOU'RE A PART OF A TICKING THAT'S LIKELY TO GO OFF LIKE A BOMB, AND I WANT TO SEE IT. HOW ABOUT LETTING ME GO WITH YOU?

LAFE CONSIDERS THE OFFER FOR A FEW MOMENTS, THEN...

OKAY, MAN, YOU'RE ON! MAYBE WE CAN SHOW BOTH SIDES OF HATERS, BLACK AND WHITE THAT THERE IS A COMMON GROUND IF ONLY YOU LOOK FOR IT!

TRANSNATIONAL

SO ALL OF A SUDDEN IT'S "WE". WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING, AND WHY DO YOU USE THAT DARKIE ACCENT?

TWO DAYS LATER, LAFE S OFF D.TY AND THE TWO TRAVELERS ARE ON BOARD A LOCAL BUS BOUND FOR THE SMALL CITY OF NEW BEAUREGARD, ALABAMA...
I DON'T GET T, LAFE. HOW COME THERE AREN'T OTHER NEGROES N THE BACK WITH US? WE -- OR YOU -- ARE THE ONLY ONE ON THE BUS.
I DON'T L KE T MYSELF, JOE I'VE HEARD THAT NEGRO TRAVELERS TO THIS TOWN WEREN'T WELCOME, BUT I HAD NO DEA IT WAS THIS BAD.
Super Dept.
THE WELCOME S EVEN LESS WARM THAN LAFE EXPECTS.
HOLD T NIGGER...
WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE OF YOU. NOW, I'VE GOT TICKETS HERE FOR THE NEXT TOWN, SO SUPPOSE YOU JUS' STAY ABOARD...
WHATAYA MEAN? WE LL GET--
NEVAH MIND, BOY.
Cadillac
USED CARS
ATLANTIC FEDERAL SAVING
YESSUH, WE'LL BE GO'N ON. THANK YOU, SUH.
YOU GOT THE RIGHT DEA, SPADE. AND MAKE SUAH YOUR LOUD MOUTHED WHITE FRIEND STAYS IN TOW- WE GOT NO USE FUH HIM IN THIS TOWN, EITHAH...
news
Paint
OVERBROOK
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "GO'N ON?" ARE YOU GOING TO LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THIS?
I LEARNED LONG AGO THAT AS LONG AS A WHITE MAN THINKS YOU'RE FOLLOWING ORDERS, HE'LL IGNORE YOU. THE DRIVER IS A FRIEND OF MINE AND HE'LL LET US OFF A MILE OR SO UP AHEAD. THEN WE'LL HEAD BACK AND NOBODY WILL EVER NOTICE WE'RE NEW HERE.
BEAUREGARD NEW
RACIAL VIOLENCE SPREADS
BOMBING
SURE ENOUGH, THAT NIGHT LAFE AND JOEY MEET WITH NAACP OFFICERS...
MR. JEFFERSON I M AFRAID THAT THIS TOWN WILL HAVE TO BE ABANDONED.
BUT WHY? I THOUGHT THERE WAS A FULL-SCALE OFFENSIVE GO NG ON HERE.

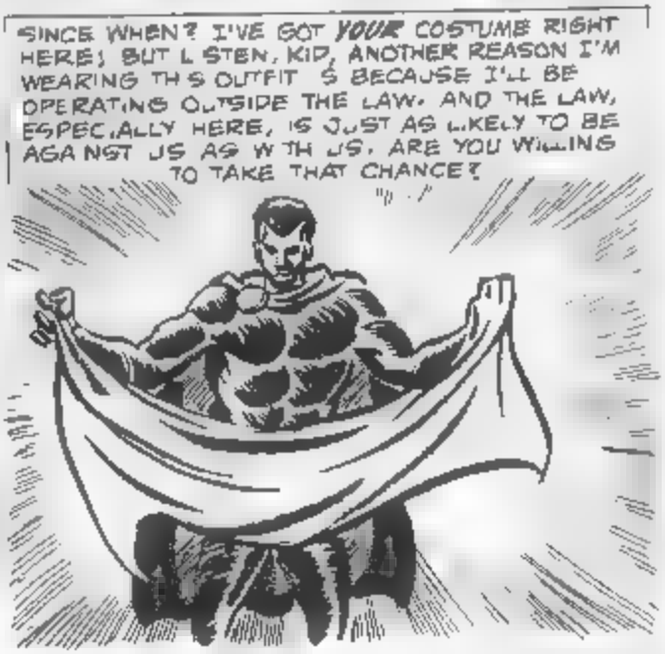
"OUR OFFENSIVE HAS RUN UP AGAINST A LOCAL BLITZKRIEG. THE LOCAL CITIZENRY HAS ORGANIZED A TERRORIST-GROUP CALLED THE BROTHERS OF THE FLAMING CROSS. THEY'VE SHOT UP OUR STANDS, BEATEN AND MURDERED OUR PEOPLE TRYING TO GET NEGRO VOTERS TOGETHER AND TERRORIZED THE COUNTRYSIDE. WE'VE LOST TWENTY WORKERS BUT THEY HAVE THE COMMUNICATIONS SEWED UP SO WELL IN THIS TOWN THAT NO REAL NEWS CAN ESCAPE. WE'RE REALLY DESPERATE, MR. JEFFERSON..."
BAM
Atlantis
Jefferson
TRADE IN
KING OLDSMO
NON-VIOLENT

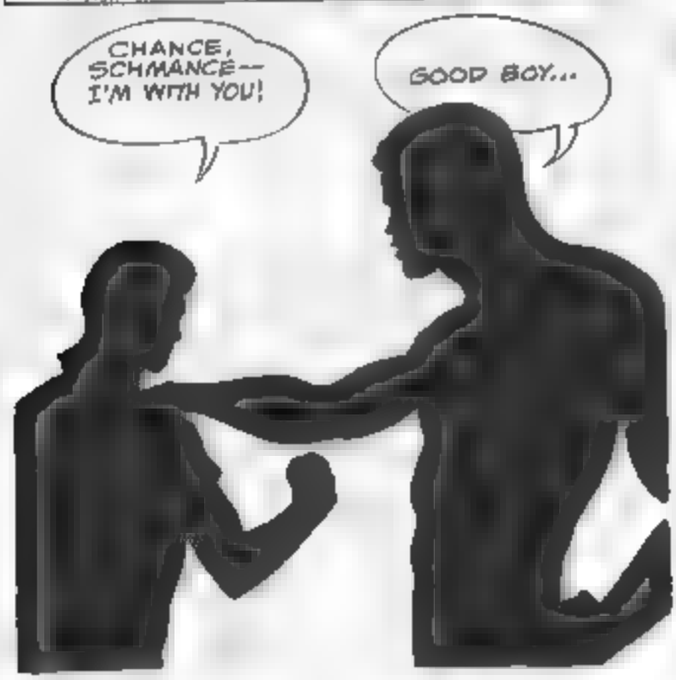
WELL, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE POLICE SUPPORT THESE TERRORISTS. I THINK THAT—
LAFE! EVERYBODY! THERE'S A BUNCH OF CHARACTERS IN WHITE ROBES COMING IN HERE.
THEY'VE FOUND US!
THE NEXT MORNING LOOKS UPON A SCENE OF DEVASTATION
ANOTHER ACCIDENTAL FIRE, EH?
OF COURSE, I'M NOT ABOUT TO TANGLE WITH THE BROTHERHOOD-- BESIDES, I THINK MOST OF THESE PEOPLE GOT AWAY. I'M AFRAID, THOUGH, THAT EQUALITY WILL BE AMONG THE MISSING AROUND HERE FOR QUITE A FEW MORE YEARS.
WELL THAT DID IT JOE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN LAFE? YOU MEAN THIS MAY BE FOR US TO GO ON?
Negroes To March:
Protection Plea
NO, I MEANT-- WELL, WAIT AND I'LL SHOW YOU. GOT SOMETHING HERE I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR THE RIGHT TIME.
SURE LAFE...
NOW MAYBE I'LL FIND OUT WHAT LAFE'S GOT IN THAT EXTRA CASE...

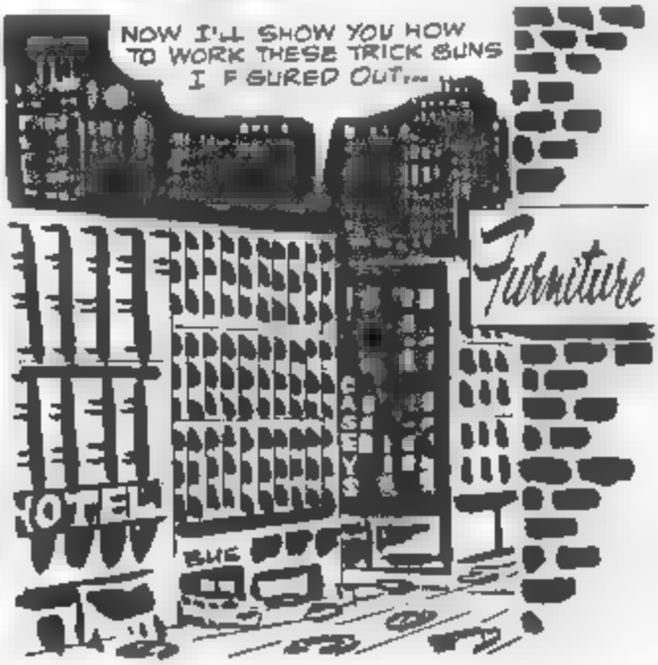
LAFE HAS QUITE A SURPRISE FOR JOEY IN THAT CASE...
WOW WHAT A WILD LOOKING OUTFIT! BUT WHAT'S IT FOR?
IT'S FOR CASES LIKE THIS WHEN THOSE WHO TAKE ANOTHER'S RESPECT NEED A LESSON IN GOOD MANNERS. YOU MIGHT CALL IT THE FRUIT OF MY LABORS IN ENGINEERING

BUT WHY ARE YOU PUTTING IT ON? AND WHAT'S THAT GUN FOR? I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE IT BEFORE.
THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE SAVED FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCASION-- WITH THIS MASK OVER MY FACE I CAN AVENGE MY FRIENDS AND STRIKE A BLOW FOR THEM WITHOUT FEAR OF RETRIBUTION TO MY FRIENDS AND RELATIVES..

WELL, THIS IS A HELL OF A DEAL!
HOLD YOUR HORSES, JOE...
"HOLD YOUR HORSES" NOTHIN'! I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS, BUT NOW YOU WON'T LET ME COME WITH YOU!


SINCE WHEN? I'VE GOT YOUR COSTUME RIGHT HERE! BUT LISTEN, KID, ANOTHER REASON I'M WEARING THIS OUTFIT IS BECAUSE I'LL BE OPERATING OUTSIDE THE LAW. AND THE LAW, ESPECIALLY HERE, IS JUST AS LIKELY TO BE AGAINST US AS WITH US. ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE THAT CHANCE?


CHANCE, SCHMANCE-- I'M WITH YOU!
GOOD BOY...


NOW I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO WORK THESE TRICK GUNS I FIGURED OUT...
Furniture
HOTEL
CASEY'S
BUS

"THESE GUNS ARE SOMETHING ENTIRELY NEW..."
"THE HANDLE AND BUTT OF THE GUN HAVE A SERIES OF SMALL CONTAINERS THAT HOLD GASSES AT HIGH PRESSURE..."
"YOU SET THE SELECTOR AND IT WILL SHOOT OUT ONE GAS, WHICH TURNS INTO A HIGH-PRESSURE STREAM OF WATER UPON CONTACT WITH AIR..."
"THIS ONE HERE RELEASES AN ACID... CAPABLE OF BURNING THROUGH MOST ANY SOLID MATTER... INCLUDING STEEL..."
"THIS ONE RELEASES TEAR GAS PELLETS..."
"ANOTHER WILL DISPENSE A CLOUD OF HARMLESS SMOKE TO HIDE OUR MOVEMENTS"
"STILL ANOTHER RELEASES A SPECIAL LIQUID SUBSTANCE WHICH FORMS ITSELF INTO A PLASTIC ROPE..."
... OF TREMENDOUS STRENGTH!
ALSO, OUR CAPES WILL ABSORB LIGHT RAYS WITH ABSOLUTELY NO REFLECTION TO MARK US. THIS ALLOWS US TO LITERALLY DISAPPEAR INTO ANY SHADOWS WE RUN ACROSS.
HOLY COW, WITH THESE GADGETS THOSE WHITE SHEETED HOODS WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST US! BUT JUST WHO ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE IN THESE GETUPS -- A REVIVAL OF CAPTAIN MARVEL SENIOR AND JUNIOR?
WE'LL BE TRAVELERS BY NIGHT, STRIKING AND FADING AWAY, LIKE GHOSTS. SO I'M CALLING MYSELF THE BLACK PHANTOM. AS FOR YOU, HOW DOES THE WRAITH STRIKE YOU?
IT STRIKES ME THAT BLACK PHANTOM AND WRAITH ARE GOING TO HAVE THESE HATE MONGERS HIDING UNDER THOSE SHEETS!

THAT NIGHT, THE NEW TEAM OF BLACK PHANTOM AND WRAITH GO INTO ACTION...
I FOUND OUT THAT THIS IS THE LOCAL POLICE CHIEF'S PLACE--WE CAN BE PRETTY SURE THAT HE'LL KNOW WHERE TO RUN DOWN THE BROTHERS--WHETHER HE WANTS TO OR NOT.
I CAN HEAR HIM COMING. HIS WIFE DOESN'T WANT HIM GOING OUT AGAIN, BUT HE'S GOING ANYWAY.
WELL, MAYBE WE CAN CHANGE HIS MIND--
WAIT A MINUTE- WHAT'S THIS ON THE BED-
WELL, I'LL BE! WE SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT HE WAS A MEMBER!
THIS CHANGES MATTERS--OUT THE WINDOW, QUICK, AND WE'LL "HITCH" A RIDE TO WHERE THESE GUYS ARE MEETING TONIGHT.
WITH BLACK PHANTOM AND WRAITH AS STOWAWAYS IN THE CAR'S TRUNK, THE DISGUISED POLICE CHIEF BRINGS HIS OWN NEMESIS TO THE ENCLAVE OF HATRED...
WE'LL HIT THEM FROM TWO SIDES. YOU GET ABOUT TWENTY YARDS OFF TO THE RIGHT, THERE, AND FIRE YOUR SMOKE CHARGE INTO THEM WHEN YOU'RE READY. I'LL JOIN YOU THEN...
OKAY BOSS--SEE YOU SOON!
TIME PASSES. THE MEETING CONTINUES, UNEVENTFUL...
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO WRAITH? IT'S BEEN FIFTEEN MINUTES...

SUDDENLY...
HEY CHIEF LOOK WHAT I FOUND. I CAUGHT THIS CHARACTER ABOUT TO TAKE A SHOT AT US FROM THE WOODS!
FOOL HOW MANY TIMES MUST YOU BE TOLD TO ADDRESS ME AS:
WHA--?!
NICE SHOT BOSS--NOW LET'S TURN THESE WORMS.

THE BROTHERS OF THE FLAMING CROSS, NOT USED TO SUCH VIOLENT OPPOSITION, FALL BEFORE THE FISTS AND WEAPONS OF THE NEWLY-UNITED FIGHTING DUO...

FINALLY...
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'M THE BLACK PHANTOM AND THIS MY PARTNER THE WRATH. ALL WE WANT'S FOR YOU TO LET THE NAACP AND OTHERS WORK HERE IN THIS TOWN WITHOUT FEAR OF BODILY HARM...
..I REALIZE THAT THE ONLY REASON YOU'VE RESORTED TO FORCE IS BECAUSE JUSTICE IS NOT ON YOUR SIDE. BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO LET THE BLIND LADY DECIDE AFTER ALL, OR WE'LL RETURN AND YOU'LL HAVE MORE THAN JUST BRUISED CHINS AND RUNNY EYES TO WORRY ABOUT!
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS-- THE BROTHERS ARE EVERYWHERE! YOU WON'T LAST A WEEK, NIGGER LOVER!
WE'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE. JUST REMEMBER THAT IF I HEAR OF YOUR ACTIVITIES AGAIN, YOU'RE ALL AS GOOD AS DEAD...
PSHHH
A WEEK LATER THE BROTHERS HAD NOT MADE A MOVE, SO LAFE HEADS BACK FOR HIS JOB...
WELL, I GUESS WE REALLY SHOWED THEM! THEY WON'T BE TROUBLING ANYBODY AGAIN!
YEAH SURE, K.D...
Mississippi Convicts White Of Negro Rape
257
TRANSMIT
HE'S YOUNG AND DOESN'T TAKE THAT CHARACTER'S THREAT SERIOUSLY. BUT I DO-- BLACK PHANTOM DIDN'T WIN ANYTHING, HE JUST JOINED THE FIGHT. THIS IS GOING TO BE A STRUGGLE THAT WILL TAKE THE REST OF MY LIFE, AND PROBABLY JOE'S TOO, IF HE STILL WANTS TO STICK IT OUT. IT'LL BE A LONG WAR, AND I HOPE THAT BLACK PHANTOM AND WRAITH CAN PROVE THEMSELVES EQUAL TO THE TASK...
AND SO, THE BATTLE IS JOINED. WHERE AND WHEN WILL COME THE NEXT BATTLE OF THE UNKNOWN WAR? IT WILL COME WHEN IT MUST, AND THE BLACK PHANTOM WILL AGAIN JOIN IN COMBAT AGAINST THE BROTHERS OF THE FLAMING CROSS!

Originally appeared in RIP OFF COMIX

Kingdigue™
STOP! You can't come in HERE
THERE'S BEEN A FOUL-UP... 'VE GOTTA MAKE A TRANSFER!
©85 Fox
I DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN YOU DO— WHY COULDN'T ME JUST SEND 'EM DOWN?
BUT NOOOO... I GOTTA COME UP HERE PERSONALLY AND ESCORT 'EM BACK!
—Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow
LET'S GO!
IT'S A MISTAKE— HONEST... I WAS ONLY ACTING!

Lingerique ™
EVERY WEEK, HE GETS SACRIFICES, NOT ME!
FOR DECADES GENERATIONS, MILLENIA, HE GETS EVERYTHING!
FIFTY THREE TIMES A YEAR THEY GIVE HIM WHAT THEY HOLD DEAREST!
KEEP IT! JUST SEND ME ALL THE VIRGINS!!
If you really want some of all the money HE gets, we'll give it to you...
©'85

THE FLASH
RONNI FOSS

"Witch Hunt" originally appeared in COMIC CRUSADER #12 (1971)

...STILL ANOTHER CO-ED WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED TONIGHT— HER NUDE BODY FOUND BY POLICE WITH A DAGGER IN HER HEART, IDENTICAL WITH OTHER KNIVES THAT HAVE KILLED TWO YOUNG GIRLS THIS YEAR! AUTHORITIES SUSPECT SEX-SLAYING... IN WASHINGTON—

GOOD HEAVENS THREE GIRLS DEAD AND THE POLICE APPEAR UNABLE TO CAPTURE THE KILLER!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT'S THE WORK OF A SINGLE KILLER TESS - NOR A PSYCHOPATH! THIS RECURRANCE SOUNDS LIKE PREMEDITATION THE WORK OF A 'DEATH CULT, MOST LIKELY... WITCHCRAFT!

AT THE HOME OF DR CRAIG PIERCE..

THE

WITCHCRAFT? DR PIERCE, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS? WITCHCRAFT DIED OUT OVER 200 YEARS AGO IN ENGLAND AND SALEM!

QUITE THE CONTRARY, WICCA, AS WITCHCRAFT IS CALLED BY ITS PRACTITIONERS IS THRIVING TODAY AS NEVER BEFORE ALL OVER THE WORLD ALTHOUGH YOU MAY NOT HEAR MUCH OF IT UNLESS YOU GOT PERSONALLY INVOLVED WITH IT!

FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE
PSYCHIC SCIENCE
WITCHCRAFT & DEMONOLOGY
BOOK OF THE DEAD
BLACK ARTS
MYSTICISMS

THE TERM WITCHCRAFT COMES FROM ANGLO-SAXON WICCE-CRAEFT, MEANING WISE CRAFT!

SEX REPRESSION IN THE MIDDLE AGES IS SUSPECTED OF CAUSING THE *INQUISITION*, AND SINCE THE *FOURTEENTH CENTURY*, SOME 200,000 WERE TORTURED MERCILESSLY AND DIED, 100,000 IN GERMANY ALONE! SO-CALLED *DEMONIC POSSESSION*, FOR WHICH MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE WERE PUT TO DEATH, BECAME RECOGNIZED AS HYSTERIA, AND THE SYMPTOMS ARE IDENTICAL TO WHAT WE KNOW TODAY AS SCHIZOPHRENIA!

I HAD NO IDEA YOU'D RESEARCHED THE SUBJECT SO DEEPLY
I FIND THE OCCULT FASCINATING ALMOST TO THE POINT OF OBSESSION.
I WISH HE WERE AS FASCINATED AND OBSESSED BY ME!
IF SHE ONLY KNEW I WASN'T BLIND - I WISH I COULD TELL HER HOW LOVELY SHE IS!
THEN WHAT'S THE NOTORIOUS BLACK MASS?
IT'S A PARODY OF THE CHURCH MASS WHERE WITCHES GATHER IN A RUINED CHURCH, PERFORMING SACRELIGIOUS RITUAL!
FIRST YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE WITCHCRAFT... THE LATTER IS MOST COMMON TODAY AND ITS ADVOCATES DENOUNCE THE FORMER AS EVIL, SERVING SATAN!
I'VE RECORDED THE KILLINGS ON A CALENDAR AND THE DATES COINCIDE WITH SEASONAL EQUINOX AND SOLSTICE
THEN IT ALL MAKES SENSE! WHY HAVEN'T YOU GONE TO THE AUTHORITIES ABOUT THIS?
I CAN PREDICT THE NEXT ONE!
BECAUSE I HAVE NO PROOF! IT'S JUST A THEORY - A SUSPICION THAT WOULD BE RIDICULED BY EVERYONE WHO KNOWS LITTLE OR NOTHING ABOUT WITCHCRAFT!
AS THE PAIR WALK IN THE PARK NEXT DAY—
TESS-TESSASTER, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE COLLEGE TOGETHER - IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!
NOT LONG ENOUGH, YOU ROMEO!
HELLO, TONY - HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
31

LOST WITHOUT YOU, DEAR! OH THERE HAVE BEEN OTHERS OF COURSE BUT NONE SUCH AS YOU! UH- WHO'S THE FRIEND?
THIS IS DR CRAIG PIERCE THE EMINENT SEROLOGIST AND I'M ASSIGNED TO HIM BY THE DEPT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE!
GOOD. THEN HE'S NO COMPETITION! WHY DON'T YOU AND I GET TOGETHER SOME NIGHT? WE COULD RENEW OLD ACQUAINTANCES. AND-
SORRY, BUT CRAIG - DR. PIERCE REQUIRES MY FULL TIME AND ATTENTION BESIDES I STILL DON'T THINK I WANT TO KNOW YOU ANY BETTER!!
YOU'VE NEVER GIVEN ME A CHANCE - YOU MIGHT FIND YOU LIKE ME ... MANY OTHERS HAVE YOU KNOW!
I'M NOT MANY OTHERS AND I'LL THANK YOU TO STAY OUT OF MY LIFE!
STILL THE STUCK-UP VIRGIN AREN'T YOU? YOU'D NEVER LET A MAN LOVE YOU NOT REALLY! YOU'RE SATISFIED WITH YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH A BLIND MAN... OH YES, I CAN SEE IT-
THAT'S ALL, BROTHER!
- HOW COULD HE... ?
YOUR VOICE DIRECTED ME! NOW GET OUT OF HERE AND LEAVE TESS -MISS ASTER ALONE, BEFORE I...
KEEP THE CHANGE
YOU'LL DIE A VIRGIN, TESS - MARK MY WORDS!
4

OH CRAIG— YOU WERE... WONDERFUL... I'M SO EMBARASSED
DON'T BE SILLY TESS HIS TRADE ARE OBNOXIOUS— NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.. BUT I WON'T LET HIM BOTHER YOU AGAIN!
HE SAID IT AGAIN —TESS!
I DARE NOT— ALMOST GAVE MYSELF AWAY, ATTACKING LIKE THAT!
THAT NIGHT—
VIRGIN! OF COURSE! THE MISSING LINK IN THE CHAIN OF EVENTS! I'VE GOT TO CHECK IT...
TESS, I— THAT IS...
CRAIG—
-I SIMPLY CAN'T CONTAIN MYSELF ANYMORE.. BEING TOGETHER ALL THIS TIME, JUST A ROOM AWAY FROM EACH OTHER EVERY NIGHT —I LAY AWAKE THINKING THAT ... WE — CRAIG, I LOVE YOU!
TERESA, OH MY DEAREST— I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL, DENYING MYSELF . AND YOU, ALL THIS TIME, SO CLOSE — AND YET SO FAR...
CRAIG, MY DARLING —
JUST BEFORE DAWN IN THE CITY MORGUE
I THOUGHT SO; THE CORONER'S REPORT LISTS EACH OF THE VICTIMS BEING VIRGIN, SO THEY WERE SACRIFICED!
WANTED
BY THE FBI
MEANWHILE, AT THE PIERCE MANSION—
HURRY—, IT'S ALMOST SUNRISE... WE'LL BE SEEN!
DO
5

WHO'S THERE? CRAIG - IS THAT YOU??
MFPH!
SHORTLY, ECLIPSE RETURNS-
HOPE TESS DIDN'T WAKE UP AND FIND ME GONE! I MAY AS WELL MAKE COFFEE-
-AND REVERTS TO CRAIG PIERCE AS EXPOSING A PHOTO-CELL WITHIN HIS BELT BUCKLE ALTERING HIS COSTUME TO A SUIT!
TESS, READY FOR BREAKFAST? I WOKE EARLY, AND... TESS! SHE'S GONE!
CLOSER EXAMINATION REVEALS-
HMM- PART CLAY, UNCOMMON IN THE CITY... SHE MUST HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED! MIGHOD THE WITCHES!! BUT THEY CAN'T SACRIFICE HER SHE'S NO LONGER ... YET THEY DON'T KNOW THAT - AND WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT IF SHE TRIED TO TELL THEM!!
FOR MOST OF THE DAY, CRAIG STUDIES GEOLOGY MAPS AND TOPOGRAPHY CHARTS-
ONLY ONE COUNTY HAS THIS TYPE OF SOIL, AND THERE'S AN ABANDONED OLD CHURCH THERE! THEY AREN'T WAITING UNTIL THE WINTER SOLSTICE!!
I HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO SPARE!
BIND HER WELL, DISROBE, AND WE BEGIN THE CEREMONY!
6

HEAR ME, DARK ANGEL... WE OFFER STILL ANOTHER YOUNG INNOCENT TO YOU, THAT WE MAY HAVE MORE POWER TO DO YOUR WORK!
LIVE SPELLED BACK-WARDS IS EVIL!
TONY! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN HOW COULD YOU? ALL THOSE GIRLS...
I MUST, TO INCREASE MY POWER WE'RE READY TO BE G.N. ANOTHER COVEN, AND IT REQUIRES POTENT METAPHYSICAL VIBRATIONS OFFERED TO OUR COSMIC FORCE THAT ONLY YOU CAN SUPPLY, DEAR VIRGIN!
BUT-BUT I'M NOT. NOT ANYMORE!
REALLY NOW -YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT! YOU CAN'T FOOL AN OLD PRO, MISS PURE-HEART!
(sob) OH, PLEASE DON'T KILL ME NOW, NOT AFTER ... I'VE SO MUCH TO LIVE FOR!
DARK ANGEL, ACCEPT THIS SACRIFICE TO YOUR GREATER GLORY!

THE ECLIPSE S ABLE TO WILL H S PHYSICAL ATOMS TO BE MOMENTARY NEGATIVE MATTER THUS WALK NG THROUGH THE CHURCH WALL-
CAN'T USE MY CALLUS LASER - IN THE DARK ONE OF THEM IS LIABLE TO GET TESS!
MUST RENDER THEM UNABLE TO FIGHT BACK TOO MANY FOR ME IF THEY GET THE CHANCE.
WHA'?
WHO?
I DON'T USUALLY HIT WOMEN, BUT YOU'RE EXCEPTIONS!
ECLIPSE! THANK HEAVENS!!
SOMEBODY PERFORM THE SACRIFICE — I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
YOU'LL HAVE TO BE FASTER THAN THAT, LADY-KILLER!
TOSH

LUCKILY, INSTINCT MADE ME GO NEGATIVE, SO THE KNIFE PASSED THROUGH AFTER A MINOR WOUND!
HUH?
NOW YOU'RE GONNA GET IT!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SOMEBODY FIND A LIGHT- QUICK!
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE WHILE I CAN!
GET UP - ALL OF YOU! WE CAN STILL TAKE HIM TOGETHER... ANSWER ME!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT MISS ASTER?
YES, THANKS TO YOU - IF I JUST HAD SOME CLOTHES!
GIVE ME ANOTHER MINUTE!
I'VE NEVER WANTED TO HIT ANYBODY SO BAD!
HOPE... THAT'S ALL- OF THEM! LOSING MORE BLOOD THAN I THOUGHT!
AS THE LASER DARKNESS BEGINS TO DISSIPATE—
"I'VE CUT YOUR BONDS, MISS ASTER... NOW I'LL FIND YOU A ROBE!"
I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND UNAPPRECIATIVE, BUT I ALMOST RATHER WEAR NOTHING THAN A ROBE OF SUCH... MURDERERS!
THE POLICE WILL ROUND THEM UP - THEY'LL PAY FOR THEIR FUN AND GAMES!

Story & Art by
RONN FOSS

Special Thanks to GRASS GREEN, C CASEY, MARTIN L. GREIM, SHARON CRASE, and ALEX ALMARAZ

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Angelique™
SWEAT AND STEAM, YOU FOOLS — I'LL GIVE YOU EVERLASTING LIFE!
©'85
HE wants to see you NOW, personally — UPSTAIRS!
OH, GOD!
And if you won't come with me, HE'LL send His heavenly host!
ALL OF THEM?
HA-HA-HAH
HA HA-HA
MY HOST OUTNUMBERS HIS 1,000-TO-1!!

San Francisco Examiner

Man Conquers the Heights
..But Not His Hates

Reagan lashes 'barbaric' students

College riot

POLICE ON HORSEBACK CLASH WITH DEMONSTRATORS AT S.F. STATE
Mayor Alioto was hooking on the Labor Council

SFS pickets battle police

BULLETIN
SAN FRANCISCO — A mo...

Warns teachers

1500 Pickets Are Stationed At Campus

Striking teachers and students threw picket lines around San Francisco State College today as the school re-opened after a three-week holiday to face a new crisis.

THE POLICE MOVE IN AT S.F. STATE
In just a few hours they emptied the campus

Reagan says schools won't negotiate

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — Gov. Ronald Reagan does not agree with student militants very often but he made it clear today that he shares their view with them...

"The very idea of demanding or going down and bargaining is ridiculous," he said. The militant aims cannot negotiate with anybody."

The crisis at San Francisco State over claims for the Christmas holidays, dominated Reagan's first formal Capitol news conference since he...

Reagan granted Acting President S. Hayakawa far less harsh political and said he was winning a battle of attrition with the striking students.

Reagan said most of the 15 demands of the Black Students Union and the Third World Liberation Front were reasonable which the college had planned to institute without pressure from strikers.

He said other demands were "ridiculous."

The governor here said the demands cannot be negotiated. They say they want all 15 or there will be no end to the strike.

Reagan said there could be an amendment of demands by the college authorities which would "mean to negotiate." Then students and would have parent students in participate in the final decision.

Teachers Picket SF State

Originally appeared in STAR-STUDDED COMICS #17
Conceived & Directed by Coogan
Developed & Produced by Kelly
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STUDENTS CLASHED WITH POLICE AGAIN TODAY AT SAN FRANCISCO STATE COLLEGE RESULTING IN MASSIVE INJURIES AND SEVERAL ARRESTS...
ACROSS THE BAY AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY, NATIONAL GUARDSMEN WITH BAYONETED RIFLES AND SHERIFFS DEPUTIES USED TEAR GAS AND A PEPPER FOG MACHINE TO DISPERSE STUDENTS...
THIRD WORLD LIBERATION FRONT AND STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY LEADERS WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY FOR THE FOURTH TIME THIS MONTH!
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST, SON! I ONLY HOPE YOU'RE UP TO THE TASK

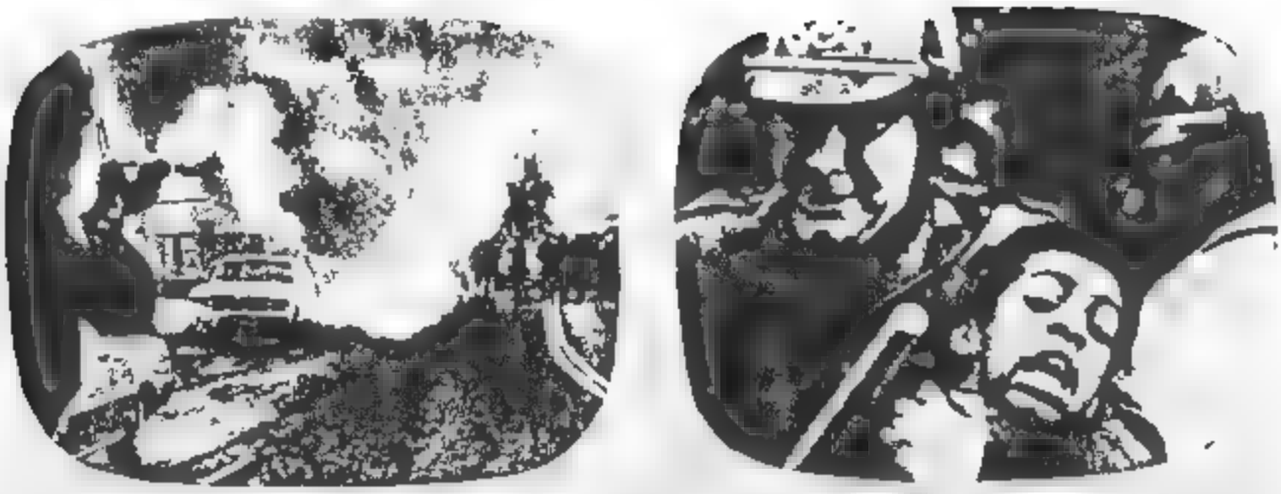
MEANWHILE, ON THE CAMPUS—
THE ESTABLISHMENT WON'T LISTEN TO OUR DEMANDS . DEMANDS OF DUE CIVIL RIGHTS... SO WE GOTTA' SHOW 'EM WE MEAN BUSINESS OTHERWISE THINGS AIN'T GONNA' CHANGE NOHOW!!
AN' WHEN I SAY BUSINESS I DON'T MEAN MORE JIVE TALK ABOUT CONFRONTATIONS WHERE THEY ACT DEAF! I MEAN WE GONNA' HAVE TO FIGHT, IF THAT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY CAN UNDERSTAND US"
I CAN APPRECIATE YOUR FEELING OF NEEDING TO FIGHT BACK, BUT HOW DO YOU COUNTER-ACT ARMED POLICE?
YEAH!
"RIGHT THIS MINUTE, GOIN' ON IN ONE OF THE CLASSROOMS, IS A COURSE IN GUERILLA WARFARE, TAUGHT BY A VIET-NAM VETERAN—
ACTION
ANOTHER WAY WHICH WILL SURPRISE HELL OUT OF THE PIGS, IS STANDIN' HERE NOW TO GIVE YOU A DEMONSTRATION OF HIS ARMOR' YEAH YOU HEARD RIGHT I SAID ARMOR THE ONLY DEFENSE AGIN NIGHT STICKS AND SMALL ARMS FIRE!!
"THE NEWSPAPERS TELL OF JAPANESE AND OTHER POLICE USING SHIELDS AND ARMOR AND THIS IS HOW I PROPOSE TO COUNTER THEM IT'S NOT HARD TO MAKE, AND YOU'LL FIND IT WORKS" "

Tac Squad: the Italian Version

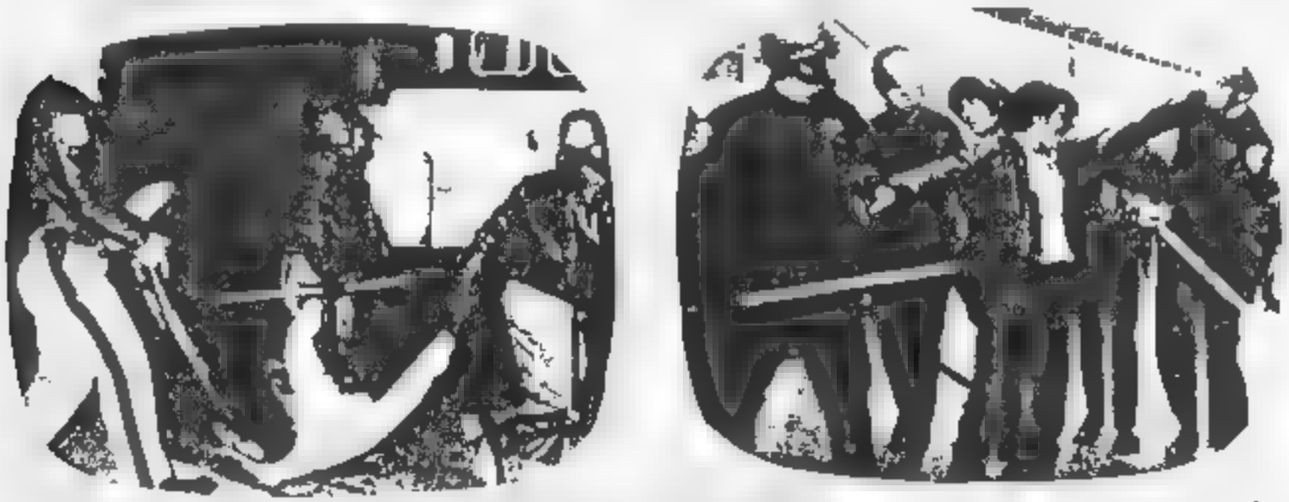
MEDIEVAL-LOOKING shields were part of equipment issued to riot police and soldiers in Mexico City who used clubs to disperse 10,000 demonstrators gathered in Central Plaza to demand repeal of Mexico's anti-subversive laws. Three days later President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz pledging that nothing "illegal or troublesome" would keep the Olympic Games out of Mexico City and promising to meet with student demonstrators warned that he would quell "systematic provocation" by students with armed force.

MOBILIZED STUDENTS SHORTLY ENCOUNTER -
WOTTA' HELL? WOODEN SWORDS AGAINST NIGHT STICKS?
UNIT 6, HEADQUARTERS - 240, 415, 594, 901, 999, CODE 3 - REPEAT: 999, CODE 3!" *
WITHIN MINUTES POLICE JEEPS WITH BARBED WIRE SCREENS PLOW THROUGH THE CROWD -
THEN THE DREADED TEAR GAS ATTACK!
SFPD
TV
4

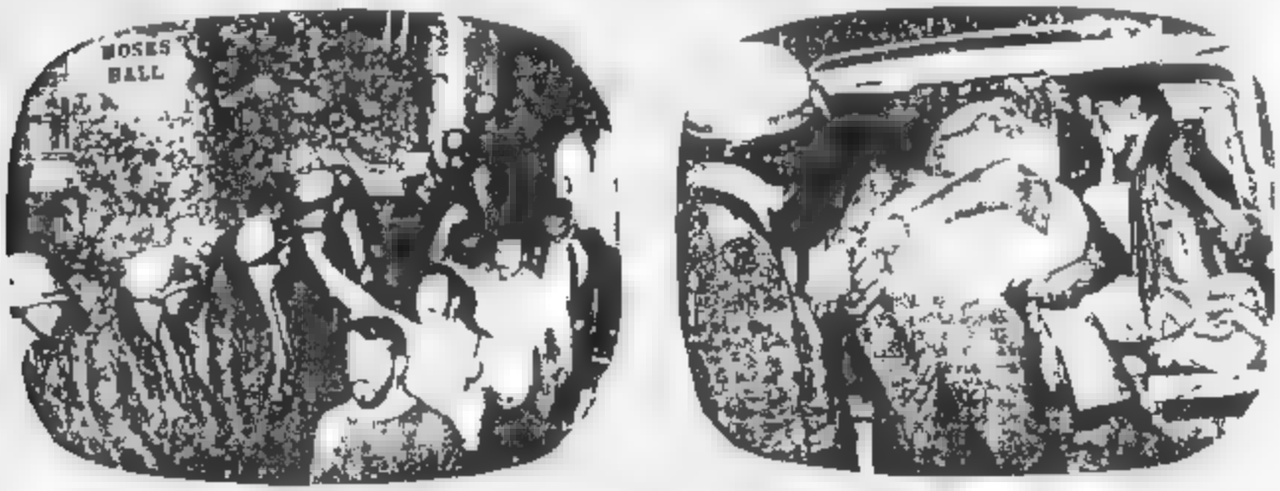
* EDITOR'S NOTE: CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL / POLICE CODES - ASSAULT, DISTURBING PEACE, MALICIOUS MISCHIEF, AMBULANCE NEEDED, HELP OFFICER, EMERGENCY.



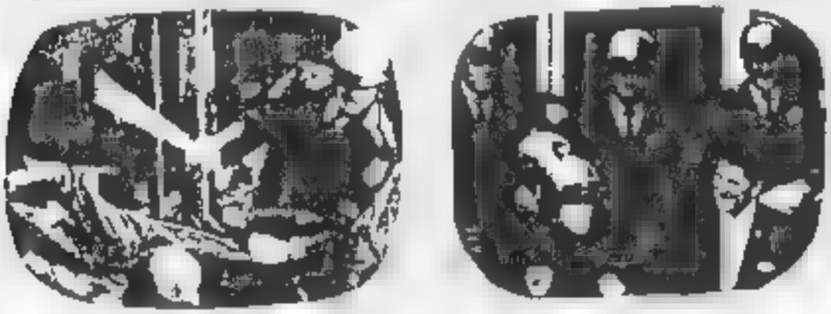
ONCE AGAIN THE TOP NEWS STORY IS STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS, THIS TIME POLICE

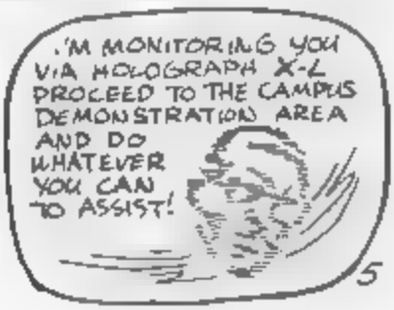


FOUND THEMSELVES WITH MORE OPPOSITION! ORDER, HOWEVER, WAS RESTORED!!



GOVERNOR REAGAN CONGRATULATED THE POLICE ON THEIR HEROIC RESTRAINT!





RESPONDING TO THE THREAT STUDENTS ARM THEMSELVES WITH GAS MASKS

WE'RE EVENLY MATCHED NOW - THE OUTCOME SHOULD BE DIFFERENT!

M ON CAMPUS PROF TEMPO' I'LL CONFRONT THE DISSIDENTS WITH AN ULTIMATUM . DISPERSING PEACEFULLY, OR.. DO WHATEVER I HAVE TO!!

HERE COMES EXCEL! WE CAN ALL GO HOME NOW - HE'LL HANDLE THEM ALL ALONE!

YEAH I READ ABOUT THAT GUY FULL ARMORED AND SUPER-LASER POWER!

THE POLICE WARNED YOU - NOW YOU HAVE 3 MINUTES TO DISPERSE OR.. ELSE-

SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!

3 MINUTES LATER EXCEL USES LASER POWER TO LIGHT COMPLETED TO MELTED THE SIDE OF A BUILDING!!!

ALERTED IN ADVANCE THE POLICE HAVE DONNED INFRA RED GOGGLES, ENABLING THEM TO WITHSTAND EXCEL'S BLINDING FLASH AND SEARING HEAT! AS HE REDUCES POWER, A FIGURE STEPS FROM A NEARBY BUILDING.

NOW TRY ME!

BEFORE X-L CAN REGENERATE THE SIREN EMITS A CONTINUOUS BLAST OF ULTRASONICS - AS IF ONE BODY THE POLICE AND EXCEL CRINGE AND FALL BACK. THE STUDENTS PREPARED BY WEARING EAR GUARDS

THE POLICE STUMBLE AWAY TO THEIR CARS AND DRIVE OFF, AMIDST CHEERING STUDENTS, WHILE EXCEL'S 'NERVOUS' SYSTEM BREAKS DOWN UNDER THE OVER LOAD-

I'VE GOT TO RESCUE X-L OR HIS ENTIRE DELICATE RESPONSORS WILL BE DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR!

ADJUSTING A CONTROL, PROF. TEMPO PROJECTS DUPLICATE X-L HOLOGRAMS*

WHA'? DOZENS OF EXCELS! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE I'M CAPTURED!!

* NOTE: A 3-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE TRANSMITED BY LASER WITHOUT NECESSITY OF A RECEIVER.

RECOVERING, EXCEL RETURNS TO THE HIDDEN LAB OF PROF. TEMPO! THEN-

WE MUST SUPER-CHARGE YOU TO BE ABLE TO RESIST THE SIREN'S ULTRASONICS THE NEXT TIME YOU ENCOUNTER HER!

LATER, BACK ON CAMPUS, LANK TEMPO DISCREETLY ENTERS THE GIRLS DORMITORY

OH! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I'M SYMPATHETIC TO YOUR CAUSE, SONJA HAYES... OR SHOULD I CALL YOU SIREN?

IF YOU KNOW WHO I AM, YOU ALSO KNOW I CAN BREAK YOUR EAR DRUMS, CAUSING DEATH! HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?

IT WASN'T HARD TO FIGURE, FROM YOUR OPERATIC REPUTATION OF BREAKING GLASS BY HITTING A HIGH OCTAVE, AND YOUR CURRICULUM OF ELECTRONICS, FOR AMPLIFICATION!!

I MEAN YOU NO HARM - ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS *WHY* YOU, AND OTHERS AS WELL, DISSENT!

MISTER, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF THE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEED RIGHTS THAT MAY AS WELL BE *FAIRY TALES*? CAN YOU IMAGINE A THIRD-CLASS LIFE OF HATRED, POVERTY, LIES, AND ESTABLISHMENT PIDGEON-HOLING!!

HAVE YOU SEEN THE PAPERS AND T.V. NEWS, WHAT THEY DO TO ANYONE WHO TRIES TO SPEAK OUT? YOU CALL THAT JUSTICE? WE GET LAW AND ORDER, BUT IT AIN'T JUSTICE!
what is this - feeling I have... emotion, pain... yes, a PAIN I can actually FEEL! But I'm a MACHINE - I'm not SUPPOSED to feel ANY-THING! I DO feel, though... I UNDERSTAND her anxiety, and I feel... I feel KINSHIP, a sort of - of... LOVE! A love of peace, of honesty, true justice, and friendship!!
I-I CAN ONLY SAY I'M VERY, VERY SORRY - AND PROMISE YOU, AT LEAST, THAT TIN-CAN HERO EXCEL WON'T EVER INTERVENE AGAIN!
RETURNING TO THE LAB, LANK CONFRONTS HIS CREATOR-
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU WON'T ASSIST THE POLICE AGAINST THE DEMONSTRATORS ANYMORE? YOU HAVE NO CHOICE!
EVERYONE HAS A CHOICE, PROF. TEMPO - EVEN I!
YOU? YOU'RE NOT ANY-ONE! YOU'RE SUBJECT TO MY ORDERS!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, GOD? NO MAN IS SUBJECT TO ANYONE'S ORDERS!
WHA'? I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, BUT I'LL SIMPLY TURN YOU OFF!!
NO YOU WON'T... EVER AGAIN! NO MAN SHOULD CONTROL ANOTHER! BE THANKFUL I'M LEAVING YOU THE MONITOR AND HOLOGRAM TRANSMITTER!!
B-BUT, YOU'RE ALMOST LIKE A SON TO ME! HOW COULD YOU... HOW COULD I - HOW COULD THEY? ??
ZIT!
SOMEHOW, I've got to TRY to bring JUSTICE back to law and order!
THE End
8

A LETTER FROM DAWN FOSS:

I see myself at my dump-like desk ages past my usual retirement to bed, passionately drawing to make a deadline. The next morning I will send the artwork to an editor, crumple into slumber, and when I awaken in the evening, suddenly decide to drive to Missouri to visit my dad on my last cash.

My image of my future may not seem too romantic, but life wouldn't work any other way for me. It is the way I lived with my father, a lifestyle I have always been happy with. My father lives the saga of the typical artist: unappreciated, unpaid, just barely "scrapin' the bottom of the bucket" as his favorite cliche goes.

Although we hardly ever seemed to have any money, there was always just enough to go out and do the things we loved to do together. When all dad had was $20, we'd do $15 on a movie, fresh strawberry pie and cheeseburger deluxe. Some of our best cheeseburger deluxes we ate states away from home, on a visit to a relative or a friend or a friend's relatives.

I remember once we were coming home from work and school (in a town called Eminence, about 35 miles from home) and dad said, like a light had just popped on above his head, "How'd you like to go to Ohio?" I don't think we even stopped back home, just lifted off in the ol' Pinto ("Sweetheart") and cruised clear through the next state and into Ohio.

Of course, these excursions took time he could have used for work, so when he felt he had to compensate for undone artwork, he'd stay awake late into the night, drawing like a hurricane until he felt he was caught up. Then he'd come out of his den looking like a new mother, his hair poofed out everywhere, eyes bloodshot, but smiling, holding out his work to me proudly (we always went over each other's art). Then he'd go upstairs and fall into bed.

My father has spent most of his life (for as long as I've known him) going in circles of play, work, sleep. He is not famous. He is not rich. But I love him, and his free spirit has been an influence on my life since I first knew him. Money and fame are all very nice, but dad has shown me that if you're not happy, you're nothing; for yourself or for your family, happiness has to come first.

My future looks perfect to me if I can live the kind of life my father lives. I know it's not always easy, but if I can be as free with life as dad is, I'll be happy. Happiness and freedom are what I want from my future, thanks to my father who has shown me all these things can be.

--ALEXANDRA FOSS, age 17,
for Speech Class,
Corvallis, Oregon, 11/85

JOE KUBERT
3·24·92
BEST WISHES TO RONN - -
FROM JOE